

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
AGENDA****Thursday, February 11, 2021**

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA- February 11, 2021</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-5	Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2021	Adopt
	<u>RURAL REPORTS</u>	
6	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Grant in Aid Allocation	Recommendation
7-10	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds	Receive
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
11-15	Forage Management Webinar Series	Receive
	<u>Discussion Item</u>	
	Community Halls	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

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.

AGENDAMoved 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

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural / Agriculture Committee Memorandum

To: Chair Parker and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: February 11, 2021
Subject: Grant in Aid Allocation

RECOMMENDATION

(all/directors/majority)

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the following Grant in Aid allocations:

1. That the Area A - "Smithers and Electoral Area A Parks and Trails Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1927, 2020" be allocated \$4,184.30 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with the purchase of Trout Creek.
2. That the Area A - "Smithers and Electoral Area A Parks and Trails Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1927, 2020" be allocated \$3,025.15 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with the Cycle 16 (Smithers – Telkwa) Commuter Trail
3. That the Areas B and E – "Burns Lake, Electoral Area B, Electoral Area E Parks and Trails Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1929, 2020" be allocated \$2,210.87 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural) for costs associated with the acquisition of Imerson's Beach.
4. That the Areas B and E – "Burns Lake, Electoral Area B, Electoral Area E Parks and Trails Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1929, 2020" be allocated \$3,817.87 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Rural) for costs associated with the acquisition of Hospital Point.

BACKGROUND

The costs listed above were incurred in 2020 by the Parks and Trails Service prior to commencement of taxation. Directors Fisher, Riis-Christianson and Lambert are supportive of paying for the costs incurred in 2020 through Grant in Aid.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

To: Rural Committee
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: February 11, 2021
Re: Provincial COVID – 19 Relief Funds

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

Receipt

Discussion:

The Province has provided the Regional District with \$583,000 to provide relief for pandemic related losses of income or for additional expenses related to the change in business delivery caused by COVID restrictions and safety measures.

At the Board Meeting on January 28th the Board allocated \$100,372 to pandemic related purchases made in 2020. This leaves \$482,628 of these funds to be allocated.

At this meeting, staff also recommended to the Board that \$132,047 of funds be allocated to rural directors to allocate to established services in their electoral area; however, the Board did not make this allocation at the Board meeting and instead asked for the remainder of the funds to come back to the Board for discussion. As each director has different services established it may be more appropriate to review the established services and allocate by need.

The amount recommended at the last meeting, by Electoral Area, is as follows:

A	\$42,732	E	\$12,951
B	\$15,756	F	\$29,796
C	\$11,504	G	\$ 7,341
D	\$11,967		

In the Committee of the Whole Meeting for February 11, staff are recommending that \$218,574 of expenditures be included in the 2021 budget. If the Board chooses to approve the recommendation, then \$264,054 in funds will remain for other projects. Of this amount staff had previously recommended that \$132,047 be allocated to Electoral Area Services (leaving \$132,007 remaining for other projects).

Attachment: Provincial Letter of November 2, 2020



November 2, 2020

Ref: 257735

Curtis Helgesen
Chief Administrative Officer
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Box 820
Burns Lake BC V0J 1E0

Dear Curtis Helgesen:

The provincial government understands the fiscal impacts that COVID-19 has placed on local service providers. To help address these challenges, in September the Province of British Columbia announced nearly \$2 billion in joint federal/provincial spending, including: \$540 million for local governments, \$418 million for community infrastructure, and \$1 billion for transit, TransLink and ferries.

The \$540 million for local governments was further divided into three funding streams. Two streams (“Development Services” for \$15 million and “Strengthening Communities” for \$100 million) will be application-based funding. More information on these funding streams will be forthcoming.

The third stream will provide direct grants to local governments. This funding stream is called the “COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments” and will provide up to \$425 million for local operations impacted by COVID-19. This funding will support local governments as they deal with increased operating costs and lower revenue due to COVID-19. It will also ensure local governments can continue to deliver the services people depend on in their communities. Eligible costs will include:

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- other related costs.

.../2

Curtis Helgesen
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As you may recall, during the early months of COVID-19, the provincial government required all municipalities to fully remit requisitions to regional districts by August 1, 2020, despite any shortfalls in municipal tax collection. This was designed to ensure regional district requisitions were kept whole in 2020. Because of this earlier action, the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments will place a funding emphasis on municipalities. However, there is still considerable funding under this grant program for regional districts.

I am pleased to advise you that **Bulkley-Nechako** is the recipient of a **\$583,000** grant under the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments. This amount will be directly transferred to your regional district in the coming days.

Under section 36 of the Local Government Grants Regulation, the amount of the grant to each local government is set by Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The determination of this amount was based on a formula that applies to all regional districts. The funding formula for regional districts is based on three components: a flat funding amount plus two per capita amounts. The flat amount will be \$300,000 to each regional district.

The first per capita amount will be based on the total regional district population (rural and municipal). This will provide \$3.10 per person. There will be a funding limit on this first per capita amount. The limit is \$1.8 million for Metro Vancouver and \$900,000 for all other regional districts. The higher limit for Metro Vancouver is in recognition of their larger population. The overall purpose of these limits is to ensure that the very largest regional districts do not receive a disproportionate share of funding compared to smaller and mid-sized regional districts.

The second per capita amount will be based on the rural population of a regional district (i.e. the population outside the boundaries of an incorporated municipality). This second per capita amount will provide \$8.13 per rural population. This second per capita amount is in recognition of the additional burden on regional districts because they are the primary local service provider in rural parts of British Columbia.

This overall formula is designed to ensure that larger regional districts receive more money than smaller ones, but that smaller and rural regional districts receive higher per capita funding than larger ones. This is in recognition that small regional districts often lack a diverse revenue base and the economies-of-scale to easily restart their operations.

An example of the funding formula (for a regional district of 65,000 people) is provided as an attachment to this letter. If you wish, you can apply this formula to your 2018 total population of **39,517** and rural population of **19,793** to determine your total funding amount. 2018 population data was used because it is the last year in which we have complete financial and demographic data for each regional district.

Curtis Helgesen
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Before December 31, 2021, (a little over a year from this letter) the regional board must fully allocate the grant funds to the appropriate services. This allocation will be entirely at the discretion of the board. Ministry staff are available to assist regional district staff should they have any questions on allocation.

To ensure optimal transparency on the use of funds, there are two reporting requirements for regional districts. **First**, as part of the 2021 audited financial statements, the regional district must provide a report on how the funds were allocated to various regional and local services.

The **second** reporting requirement is an annual report on how the grant funds were spent in that year. This will be a schedule to your audited financial statements, under section 377 of the Local Government Act. The schedule will include the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of unused funds. This report may be consolidated for the entire regional district, rather than reporting on a service-by-service level. Your regional district must continue to annually report on the use of grant money until the funds are fully drawn down.

If you have questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch, by email at: Jennifer.Richardson@gov.bc.ca, or by phone at: 778-698-3243.

The provincial government welcomes this opportunity to support COVID-19 restart and recovery throughout British Columbia. We believe that this funding will contribute to the long-term recovery of local governments who are both critical service providers and crucial drivers in the British Columbia economy.

Sincerely,



Kaye Krishna
Deputy Minister

Attachment

pc: Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Cheryl Anderson

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: Reminder: Meeting Tomorrow Morning 9a.m.
Attachments: ForageManagementWebinarSeries.jpg; Webinar1.jpg; Webinar2.jpg; BCFC Calendar 2021 Feb-March.pptx.jpg

-----Original Message-----

From: sblack@industrialforestry.ca <sblack@industrialforestry.ca>
 Sent: February 3, 2021 11:56 AM

BC Forage Council is thrilled to be announcing the schedule for the Forage Management Knowledge Transfer Webinar Series. This FREE 5-part webinar includes 11 different speakers, discussing Soil Health, Nutrient Management, Encroachment of Woody Species into Pasture, Legume Production and Grazing Management.

Register for the webinar series online here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IF3ew_8UQjqh3Kvaomlxuw

The webinars are hosted on Tuesday evenings, from 6p.m. to 8p.m., starting February 9th and finishing on March 9th, 2021. Participants will be sent a list of relevant resource materials for review prior to the webinars, and provided lots of opportunities to ask presenters questions. Posters for the sessions, including more details for the first two webinars, are attached here.

The first session is focused all on soil health, which will be discussed using information from soil samples collected from throughout the region in the fall of 2020!

BCFC is also hosting a 3-part webinar series on Thursday evenings

(6-7p.m.) starting Feb. 11th, related to their research project 'Demonstrating Innovative Pasture Rejuvenation Practices in the Central and Northern Interior of BC.' The webinars will include a project overview and preliminary results, a producer panel of the farm partners conducting the research, an overview of forage and soil carbon, and a presentation by Dr. Bart Lardner on sod-seeding as a rejuvenation practice.

Register for this series:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcofuuhqDluHtOoX9C3y38aMu0xwqGY94an>

As a BONUS to the Feb. 25th webinar focused on sod-seeding, producers can book a one-on-one session with a forage specialist, to talk about their pasture rejuvenation considerations. A recent soil test is required; spots are limited and are first-come, first-serve. Forage Specialists available include: Julie Robinson, Mike Witt, and Grant Lastiwka. To book your spot email bcfc@bcforagecouncil.com

More information about all the webinars and extension activities be found on their website: www.bcforagecouncil.ca

FORAGE MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER WEBINAR SERIES

Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

To register, email:
bcfc@bcforagecouncil.com

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Feb 9</i> | <i>Soils 101</i> |
| <i>Feb 16</i> | <i>Nutrient Management in Forages</i> |
| <i>Feb 23</i> | <i>Invasive Species Management</i> |
| <i>March 2</i> | <i>Focus on Legumes</i> |
| <i>March 9</i> | <i>Grazing Management</i> |

FORAGE MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER WEBINAR SERIES

Tuesday, Feb 9th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

To register, email:
bcfc@bcforagecouncil.com

Soil Health 101

This session will cover:

- *Introduction to Soil Health*
- *What Your Soil Analysis is Telling You:
A Deep Dive Into a Case Study*
- *Central-Interior Soils and Managing pH*
- *Digging Deeper into Soil Nutrients*



Dieter Geesing
Provincial Soil Specialist



Josh Andrews
Nutrient Management Agrologist



Norm Dueck
HeartLand Soil & Crop Solutions

FORAGE MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER WEBINAR SERIES

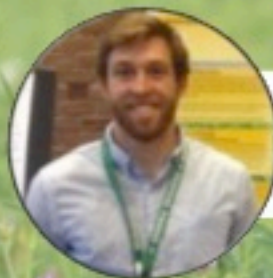
Tuesday, Feb 16th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

To register, email:
bcfc@bcforagecouncil.com

Nutrient Management in Forages

This session will cover:

- *Nutrient Management 101*
- *Nutrients and Legume Nodulation*
- *Nutrients Impact on Forage Species
Composition*



Josh Andrews

Nutrient Management Agrologist



Dr. Shabtai Bittman

Research Scientist, AAFC

Webinar Calendar

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Forage Management Knowledge Transfer Webinar Series = GREEN

Farm Adaptation Innovator Program - Webinar Series on Pasture Rejuvenation = GOLD

Producer Panel on Pasture Rejuvenation for Kootenay-Boundary Region = BLUE

For information on topics covered and to register, visit: www.bcforagecouncil.ca