

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, February 11, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey – left at 1:55 p.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Manager of Economic Development
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:00 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Haley Jeffrey, Emergency Services Manager – left at 11:32 a.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Nadine Frenkel, Chair School District 91 Nechako Lakes – left at 11:04 a.m.
Manu Madhok, Superintendent, School District 91 Nechako Lakes – left at 11:04 a.m.
Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent, School District 54 Bulkley Valley – left at 11:04 a.m.
Matthew Monkman, Assistant Superintendent, School District 54 Bulkley Valley – left at 11:04 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2021-2-1

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 11, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – January 14, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2021-2-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of January 14, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES – Nadine Frenkel, Chair and Manu Madhok, Superintendent RE: Update

Chair Thiessen welcomed Nadine Frenkel, Chair and Manu Madhok, Superintendent, School District 91 Nechako Lakes.

Ms. Frenkel and Mr. Madhok provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

School District 91 Nechako Lakes

- SD 91 Board of Education
- SD 91 Leadership Team
- Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Superintendent Monthly Reports
- 2020 Capital Investments – RDBN Schools
- K-12 Enrolment RDBN Schools 2013-2020
- SD 91 Enrolment – Sept. 2020
- Teacher Recruitment
- Recruitment Strategies
- SD 91 asks of the RDBN.

Discussion took place regarding:

- RDBN Solid Waste Management initiatives
 - o Engagement with schools
 - o Including youth on the RDBN Waste Management Committee
 - o Schools are considered institutional facilities under the ICI (Industrial, Commercial, Institutional) cardboard recycling
 - Students have indicated they want change
- RDBN Broadband initiatives
 - o Improving connectivity for unserved and underserved areas of the Regional District
 - o Identified priority projects
 - Southside of Francois Lake
 - Buck Flats area in Houston
 - o RDBN staff have connected with Superintendent Madhok
 - o RDBN has received letters of support from SD 91 and 54
 - o Investigate working together collaboratively
- Career days at the schools
 - o Community involvement
 - o Student interaction with community members and local government representatives
- Tucker Goes to City Hall: A Kid’s Guide to Local Government by Jill Lewis & George B. Cuff
- Sowchea Elementary School
- Food Hub – utilization of facilities
- Shared transportation BC Transit/Northern Health/School District/Regional Districts

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES – Nadine Frenkel, Chair and Manu Madhok, Superintendent RE: Update (Cont'd)

- Province has developed an emergency management program for Grades 5-6
 - o RDBN staff willing to assist schools to provide the program.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Frenkel and Mr. Madhok for attending the meeting.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54 Bulkley Valley – Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent and Matthew Monkman, Assistant Superintendent RE: Update

Chair Thiessen welcomed Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent and Matthew Monkman, Assistant Superintendent, School District 54 Bulkley Valley.

Messrs. McDiarmid and Monkman provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Strategic Plan – Board of Education School District 54 Bulkley Valley

- SD#54 Mission Statement
- The Board of Trustees of School District 54 commits to Core Values
- Learning Priorities
 - o Goal - Increase graduation and success rates for all learners
 - o Goal – Support all students to achieve optimal physical and mental wellness
 - o Goal – Increase community involvement for students
- Indigenous Education Priorities
 - o Goal – Increase graduation and success rates for Indigenous learners
 - o Goal - Increase Indigenous culture and the presence of Witsuwit'en language in all schools, particularly Secondary Schools
 - o Goal – Support everyone in SD 54 school community to increase their knowledge of and value for Indigenous worldviews and perspectives
- Operational Priorities
 - o Goal – Promote and support outdoor experiential learning programs
 - o Goal – Provide more updated, flexible and modern learning spaces
 - o Goal – Increase environmental stewardship in District operations
- Facilities available to the wider community
- Choice and Flexibility Priorities
 - o Goal – Promote and support Innovative instruction practices and learning opportunities for students
 - o Goal – Promote and support a broad variety of courses and programs for students
 - o Goal – Provide professional development opportunities that support innovation

Discussion took place regarding:

- Athletics – importance
 - o Funding for buses and drivers
 - o Priority of School District 54
 - o Sport Performance – exploring a new program
 - Having national level elite athletes training at School District 54 facilities
 - o Always exploring options to include athletics in schools
 - o School District 91 recognizes the importance of athletics
 - o Accessibility for students to participate in sports and removing barriers

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

- Music programs
 - o SD 54 substantial program
 - Based on student enrollment
 - Adapting to COVID-19 regulations
 - o SD 91
 - Strong music program in Vanderhoof
 - Recruitment to make a music program equitable across the region
 - Announced that SD 91 has purchased 100 ukuleles for Grades 2-5
 - Expressed appreciation for individuals in the smaller communities within SD 91 that provide their fine arts expertise
- Strong music community programs that absorb children
- Strong programs within the school are supported by strong programs within the community
- Navigating and negotiating challenging issues
- Walnut Park School in Smithers located close to the historical Indian Town and the burning down of Indian Town
- Superintendent McDiarmid spoke as an indigenous person building bridges has been part of his career work
- Strong Indigenous education department
- Address in a respectful way and honouring the history that has taken place.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. McDiarmid and Monkman for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Stuart-Nechako Economic Development Service

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2021-2-3

“That staff be directed to repeal Bylaw No. 1460 and that the remaining funds in the service be distributed to the participating areas.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-2-4

“That the Board allocate \$218,574 of the COVID Safe Restart Grant to 2021 identified projects and incorporate these amounts into the 2021 budget, and to allocate \$132,047 based on population to each Electoral Area, and the remaining \$132,007 to the Electoral Areas to be allocated later in 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- o COVID Safe Restart Grant monies to support community not for profit organizations
- o Audio visual for the RDBN Board room and grant application
- o Overview of the Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting discussion regarding the Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds
- o Per capita allocation to rural areas to provide support
- o Commitment by rural directors to each of their areas.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Revised Financial Assistance
for Emergency Response
Costs – A Guide for BC First
Nations and Local Authorities

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-2-5

1. That the Committee of the Whole recommend the Board direct staff to prepare and submit a response letter regarding the Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs – A Guide for BC First Nations and Local Authorities (Financial Guidelines) prior to the comment period deadline of February 28, 2021.

2. And that the Committee of the Whole recommend the RDBN Board direct staff to invite member municipalities to send a letter of support regarding feedback from the RDBN.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services provided an overview of the Revised Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs – A Guide for BC First Nations and Local Authorities staff report.

The following was discussed:

- Focus on a few key concerns
- Municipal Council meeting timelines and deadlines to provide a letter of support
- Hobby Farms and farm status under Livestock
- EOC Administrative Operating Costs
 - Payroll, overtime and assistance from municipalities at the time of an emergency
 - Chair Thiessen and CAO Helgesen addressing the issue with the Emergency Management BC.

Bylaw Limits on Taxation

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2021-2-6

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Bylaw Limits on Taxation memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Update – Agricultural Plastic Recycling – Clean Farms Pilot Program Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2021-2-7

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Director of Environmental Services’ Update – Agricultural Plastic Recycling – Clean Farms Pilot Program memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the Board receiving the Agricultural Waste Characterization Study from Clean Farms in its entirety at a future Board meeting. The RDBN supporting a local (regional) processing project was discussed. The agricultural community has indicated that they will not support trucking the products long distances.

Committee Terms of Reference (ToR)

The following was discussed:

- Committee operating procedures
- Connectivity Committee ToR
 - o Committee Mandate
 - o Strategic priorities
 - Support efforts to gain internet that meets the minimum CRTC upload and download internet speed mandate
- Providing a list of Committee members
- Committees working with each member municipality moving forward.

Break for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

- Rural and Agriculture Committees
 - o Separating the Rural/Agriculture Committee
 - o History of the Rural/Agriculture Committee
 - o Agriculture sector impacts in relations to municipalities
 - o Municipalities blending with rural areas
 - o Combining the Rural and Agriculture Committee and Terms of Reference
- Regional Board member expertise on subject matters brought forward at Committee Meetings
- Regional Board member support
- Committee minutes and recommendations come forward to subsequent Board Meetings for approval
- Opportunity for Board members to attend all committee meetings
- Smaller committees and Committee of the Whole structure, select and standing committees
- RDBN Procedure Bylaw
 - o Committee meeting participation
- All RDBN Directors have the option to provide information to the Chair of a Committee to be brought forward
- Natural Resources Committee ToR
- Waste Management Committee ToR
 - o Youth Engagement
 - Non-voting representatives
 - Participating electronically

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC)
 - o RSWAC a component of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) approved by the Province
 - o Provides the ability for public input
 - o Remuneration for external stakeholders
 - Has to be outlined in the Terms of Reference
- Staff to bring forward to the February 25, 2021 Board Meeting.

Committee Terms of Reference Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2021-2-8

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services’ Committee Terms of Reference memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lakes and Prince George
Timber Supply Area
Apportionment

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-2-9

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services’ Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Area Apportionment memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson indicated he has had conversations with stakeholders and they have voiced concerns in regard to the Lakes and Prince George TSA Apportionment. Discussion took place concerning the following:

- o Unintended consequences with the scenarios presented by Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD)
- o Tenures were implemented to prevent boom and bust economies and to create security and community support
- o Rural Directors not included in the consultation process
- o Requesting an extension to FLNRORD response deadline
- o Municipalities and rural directors providing individual letters to FLNRORD
 - Municipal and electoral area perspective
 - Regional District perspective
 - Municipal and electoral area alignment and support
 - Staff can provide assistance if required
- o BC Timber Sales
 - US Lumber Markets
 - Market value
- o Companies with higher portions of timber supply.

CORRESPONDENCE

Emergency Management BC Moved by Director McGuire
-EMBC Update: Emergency Seconded by Director Lambert
Management Legislation – RDBN

C.W.2021-2-10

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Correspondence from Emergency Management BC – EMBC Update: Emergency Management Legislation – RDBN.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2021-2-11

“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(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 Relations/Connectivity), must be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2021-2-12

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:09 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant