

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Chris Newell – arrived at 9:18 a.m.  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen – arrived at 9:26 a.m.

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 – arrived at 9:19 a.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – arrived at 9:18 a.m.  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James  
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-2-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for February 11, 2021 be approved as amended that Dog Control be added under New Business.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Rural/Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-January 14, 2021

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-2-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of January 14, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## RURAL REPORTS

### Grant in Aid Allocation

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

### RDC.2021-2-3

"That the Rural/Agriculture 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."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Newell

### RDC.2021-2-4

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Allocating funds to grant in aid
  - o Bound by grant in aid requirements
  - o Electoral Area Directors to contact staff concerning allocation
- COVID-19 impacts to community halls and not for profit societies
- Utilizing funding for community halls and not for profit societies/projects impacted by COVID-19
  - o Staff to provide assistance to groups
- Propose RDBN agreements with some halls
  - Emergency Support Services (ESS) - Reception Centres
  - o Staff will investigate options
- Provincial COVID – 19 Relief Funds criteria and the Province's consideration of the impacts from COVID-19

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

- Bringing forward a resolution to the RDBN Committee of the Whole meeting allocating \$218,574 of the COVID Safe Restart Grant to 2021 identified projects in 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
- Potential ideas:
  - o Reuse Sheds – investigate funding and options to reopen
  - o Advisory Planning Commissions (APC's) – workshop to assist groups and electoral area representatives to govern efficiently
  - o Supporting municipal service partners
- Provincial Government's allocation of the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments
  - o Director Lambert mentioned that Grace McGregor, Electoral Area Representative, UBCM Executive at the 2021 Virtual LGLA Electoral Area Directors Forum spoke of the funding allocation to rural areas and municipalities and that the allocated amount may be different
  - o Staff will look into the matter.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Forage Management Webinar Series Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2021-2-5 "That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence regarding the Forage Management Webinar Series."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### Community Halls

Chair Parker spoke of the struggle community halls are having in the region due to the impacts from COVID-19. He mentioned that having an inventory of community halls and services they provide would be beneficial. CFO Illes mentioned that Fort Fraser and Braeside Community Halls have service establishment bylaws.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dog Control in Rural Areas Director Riis-Christianson brought forward dog control in rural areas for discussion. He mentioned there has been interest and concern from Electoral Area "B" residents in regard to dog/animal control. Director Riis-Christianson noted the difficulty of implementing dog/animal control services. Discussion took place in regard to other RDBN Electoral Area Directors experience concerning animal control. Staff noted that there is a low level for demand for animal control services within the region. Dangerous dog situations are reported and addressed by the RCMP and incidents involving wildlife can be reported to the BC Conservation Officer Service. Monitoring the situation was discussed and having discussion with the RCMP appearing as a Delegation at a future Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-2-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Mark Parker, Chair

---

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant