

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, March 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

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Manager of Economic Development
Liliana Dragowska, HRVA Coordinator – left at 11:27 a.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Haley Jeffrey, Emergency Services Manager
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Lindsay King, FireSmart Educator – left at 11:35 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Wes Bender, Wildfire Technician – Prevention, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Brad Blackwell, Zone Wildfire Officer, Nadina Fire Zone, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Hans Erasmus, RPF – Licensed Authorizations Officer – Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Patrick Ferguson, RPF – Wildfire Risk Reduction Officer – Skeena Stikine District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Garth O'Meara, RPF – Licensed Resource Specialist & Fire Rehab Lead – Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-3-1

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - Hans Erasmus, RPF – Licensed Authorizations Officer – Skeena Region, Garth O’Meara, RPF – Licensed Resource Specialist & Fire Rehab Lead – Nadina Natural Resource District, Patrick Ferguson, RPF – Wildfire Risk Reduction Officer – Skeena Stikine District and Wes Bender, Wildfire Technician – Prevention RE: Wildfire Mitigation

Chair Thiessen welcomed Hans Erasmus, RPF – Licensed Authorizations Officer – Skeena Region, Garth O’Meara, RPF – Licensed Resource Specialist & Fire Rehab Lead – Nadina Natural Resource District, Patrick Ferguson, RPF – Wildfire Risk Reduction Officer – Skeena Stikine District and West Bender, Wildfire Technician – Prevention, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Messrs. Erasmus and Ferguson provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Wildfire Risk Reduction – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

- Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program overview
- Current and planned projects
- Nadina Rx burning plans

CRI Program

- CRI program funding is intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their impacts on BC communities
- 2 streams:
 - o 1. Fire Smart Community Funding & Supports (RDBN – Lindsay King)
 - o 2. Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) (FLNRORD)

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction

- CL Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) funding supports 3 phases:
 1. Planning – Wildfire Risk Reduction Tactical Planning
 2. Site Prescriptions
 3. Operation

WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Risk Class Framework

- Likelihood + Consequence = Risk
- Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA)
- Wildland Urban Interface (2.25 km buffer, >25 structures per hectare)
- WUI Risk Class combines PSTA threat and WUI attributes.
- WUI Risk Class Mapping
- Current Projects for Nadina
- Planned Projects for:
 - o Nadina Tactical Plans
 - o Nadina Fuels Management Prescriptions
- Operational Treatment
- Bulkley Valley Tactical Plan

Bulkley Valley Planning and Implementation – Tactical Planning

- Wildfire Risk Reduction – Site Prescription FTU – Overview
- Lake Babine Tactical Plan
- Operational Treatments in Bulkley Valley
- Site Prescriptions – Funding dependent

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CONT'D)

- Community Forest in Smithers/Hudson Bay Mountain
- BC Wildfire Crew Projects
- Stay aligned with goals of RD– HRVA (Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis) to facilitate planning work

Prevention and prescribed fire burns

- Currently 3 in Nadina
- Lead agencies
 - o BL COMFOR
District of Houston
 - o Village of Granisle
- 3 prescribed burns approved Spring and Fall 2021
- Additional ones requiring review.

The following was discussed:

- Electoral Area Director input in regard to landscape resiliency analysis and assessing values
- Rural interface
- Landscape Wildfire Resiliency Analysis
 - o Strategic level analysis for the entire Nadina Forest District
 - o At the completion of data assimilation FLNRORD will move forward with review and input opportunities for stakeholders
- Fire break near Houston
 - o Fire Management Stocking Standard
- FLNRORD provided one page fact sheet to RDBN staff to be forwarded to the Board
- Interest beyond WUI risk bubble
 - o Contact Forest District staff to work together to determine a solution
- Wildfire Risk maps
 - o FLNRORD staff will provide direction on accessing public strategic risk mapping
- Woodlot owners and wildfire risk management
 - o Legislation
 - o Low impact hand treatments utilized
 - o Options
- Indian Bay – Southside of Francois Lake.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. Erasmus, O'Meara, Ferguson, and Bender for attending the meeting.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – February 11, 2021

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-3-2

"That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of February 11, 2021 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

RDBN Response Letter to the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Consultation – Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Area (TSA) Apportionment Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Funk

C.W.2021-3-3

“That the Board direct staff to send the March 11, 2021 letter to the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in response to the Consultation for the Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Area (TSA) Apportionment.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2021-3-4

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following Correspondence:
-North Central Local Government Association – Province of BC Response to 2020 Resolution: Municipal Solid Waste – ICI EPR Program
-Environment and Climate Change Canada – Public Comment Period: Amendments to Schedule 1 of *Species at Risk Act*.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Chair Funk, Natural Resource Committee

- Natural Resource Issues/Concerns

Discussion took place regarding:

- Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)
 - Concerns in regard to natural resource extraction from the rural area
- Additional Directors indicating their desire to participate in the committee beyond the number outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Consideration be given to adjusting the ToR to a Committee of the Whole format
- Chair Funk and staff will meet to determine steps moving forward
- Smaller Committee provides opportunity to address specific issues to build strategy and bring forward to the Board
- Determining the key issues in the region
- Evolution of Committee moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2021-3-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:46 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant