

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(VIRTUAL)

Thursday, May 13, 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, Director of Corporate Services
Megan D'arcy, Agriculture Coordinator (West)
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Liliana Dragowska, HRVA Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East)
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
Shawna Williams, Economic Development/Agriculture Student – left at 9:19 a.m.

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – arrived at 8:50 a.m.
Shane Brienen, District of Houston – arrived at 9:23 a.m.
Janine de la Salle, Urban Food Strategies
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 9:58 a.m.
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James
Darren Stott, Greenchain Consulting

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2021-5-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for May 13, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -April 8, 2021

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-5-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of April 8, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

FOOD HUB FEASIBILITY STUDY – Janine de la Salle, Urban Food Strategies and Darren Stott, Greenchain Consulting

Chair Parker welcomed Janine de la Salle, Urban Food Strategies and Darren Stott, Greenchain Consulting.

Ms. de la Salle and Mr. Stott provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Food Economy Assessment and Food Hub Feasibility Study

- Project Objectives
- Possible model for food economy and food hub network
- Possible model for an RDBN Food Hub Network
- Proposed operational elements
- Revenue streams for the Food Hub Network
- Food Hub recommendations
- 5-Year Financial Plan for Food Hub Network
- Proposed Go-Forward Plan
- Potential limiting factors
- Success factors
- Key findings & recommendations.

Staff will provide the Food Hub Feasibility Study final report for Directors to review. Feedback can be provided to the Manager of Regional Economic Development. The Report and feedback will be brought forward at a future Committee of the Whole for discussion.

The following was discussed:

- Examples of Food Hub Networks working elsewhere
- Fort St. James/Granisle feed into the main corridor
- Marketable products – finding niche markets
- Anchor tenants helps with the success of a Food Hub
- Haskap berry market.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. de la Salle, and Mr. Stott for attending the meeting.

RURAL REPORTS

Agriculture Newsletter

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-5-3

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend that the Board approve a subscription-based Agriculture Newsletter.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis May 2021 Project Status Update

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2021-5-4

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the HRVA Coordinator’s Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis May 2021 Project Status Update memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

UBCM Federal Gas Tax Fund: 2021 Update Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-5-5 "That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's UBCM Federal Gas Tax Fund: 2021 Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting Day and Half Day Rates

The following was discussed:

- Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative meetings
- Nechako First Nations meetings
- Time commitment/flexibility attending meetings due to ability to utilize virtual platforms and not having to travel
- Some Directors are seeing an increase in the number of meetings to attend
- Review meeting time requirements
- Important to participate in the meetings as a representative of a community
- Meeting requirements
 - o Some meetings require a significant amount of research and preparation time prior to attending meetings
- Discretionary budget
 - o Operational reserves
 - o Board decision to carry funds forward year to year
- First Nations/RDBN relationship building meetings
 - o Budget allocation
 - o Global fund
- Staff will bring forward further information.

Dental and Medical Benefits for Directors

Discussion took place regarding:

- Rural Directors interest in dental and medical benefits
- Non-taxable benefit
- Potential to negotiate rates if everyone is interested
- Single rate and family rate
- UBCM extended medical and dental benefit provision to elected officials
- Flexibility regarding participation
- Remuneration/Benefits draw a cross section of people in running as an elected official
- UBCM Remuneration Report
- Potentially review closer to end of current term of office
- Staff to bring forward further information.

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funds memorandum.

The following was discussed:

- Allocating funding to Grant in Aid
- Upcoming projects in some electoral areas
- Grant in Aid totals and Covid-19 relief fund totals
 - o Staff will review allocation of funding to grant in aid and COVID-19 relief funds and will provide an update to Electoral Area Directors
- Community and Farmers' Markets are potential organizations that may require assistance
- Additional outreach and advertising
- Staff have reached out to organizations provided by Directors and those that have contacted the RDBN from the advertising
- Staff will continue to reach out to organizations
- Staff will provide an update to the Committee regarding the process to date.

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Agriculture Reports

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-5-6

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's memoranda:
-Agriculture Development Area Lands Information memorandum
-Residential Flexibility in the Agricultural Land Reserve memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Peace River Regional District -Lack of Funding – Invasive Plant Management

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-5-7

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from the Peace River Regional District – Lack of Funding – Invasive Plant Management."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2021-5-8

"That the meeting be adjourned at 10:06 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant