

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert – arrived at 11:50 a.m.
Brad Layton – via Zoom
Linda McGuire
Bob Motion
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom

Director Absent Chris Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

Alternate Director Andrea Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural) – via Zoom

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
– arrived at 11:17 a.m., left at 12:00 p.m.
Liliana Dragowska, HRVA Coordinator – arrived at 11:16 a.m.,
left at 12:00 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
– arrived at 11:13 a.m., left at 12:00 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:57 a.m.,
returned at 12:53 p.m.
Maria Sandberg, Parks and Trails Coordinator – arrived at 11:00
a.m., left at 11:25 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others David Luggi, Stelat’en First Nation - via Zoom
Sandy Mackay, Housing Research & Policy Lead, M’akola
Development Services – via Zoom – left at 11:25 a.m.
Rory Stever, Engagement Analyst, M’akola Development
Services – via Zoom - left at 11:25 a.m.
Cyndi Lauze, Vanderhoof – via Zoom – arrived at 11:09 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2021-6-1

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 10, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – May 13, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Funk

C.W.2021-6-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 13, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

**M’AKOLA DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – Sandy Mackay, Housing Research & Policy Lead
RE: Housing Needs Report Project**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Sandy Mackay, Housing Research & Policy Lead, M’akola Development Services

RDBN – Housing Needs

- Introductions
 - o About M’akola Development Services
- Review of Objectives and Deliverables
 - o Goals and Objectives
 - o Key Deliverables
- Data Approach
 - o Data Objective
 - o Limitations
 - o Timeline
- Engagement Approach
 - o Proposed Methods
 - o Timeline
- Next Steps.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Secondary dwellings within the ALR
- Scope of Report to review high level policy analysis
- Quantifiable housing data and matrix measurements
- Municipal housing studies
 - o Incorporating information
- Conducting a Regional Housing study to include member municipalities.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. Mackay for attending the meeting.

DELEGATION

DAVID LUGGI, STELLAT'EN FIRST NATION – via Zoom RE: Lejac Residential School

Chair Thiessen welcomed David Luggi, Stelat'en First Nation.

Mr. Luggi spoke of his personal experience in the residential school system and the direct and collateral impacts of the residential school system over the past 100 years.

Mr. Luggi provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Every Child Matters

- Kamloops Residential School
- Kamloops & Lejac Residential School Survivors
- Stelat'en Members Attended
- Indian Residential Schools in Canada
- Lejac Residential School
 - o Operated 1922-1976
- Looking Ahead
 - o Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 92 – the Declaration provides the reconciliation framework for a paradigm shift
- “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana.

Mr. Luggi spoke of the many real stories that individuals have regarding their experience with the residential school system and the long-term impacts to the indigenous community. The Board recognized the strength and courage it takes in sharing Mr. Luggi's story.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The Catholic Church residential school records
 - o Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation 58
- Resolution/letters of support regarding the release of information
- Carrier Sekani Family Services, Nadleh Whut'en and Stelat'en – Wiping of the Tears Ceremony
 - o June 18-20, 2021
 - o Lejac Residential School Site.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. Luggi for his strength and courage in sharing his story.

Break for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

REPORTS

Annual UBCM Convention-Minister/Ministry Staff Meetings

Discussion took place in regard to requesting the following 2021 Union of BC Municipalities Convention Minister meetings:

- **The Honourable John Horgan, Premier**
 - o Nechako First Nations – Memorandum of Understanding: Health of the Nechako River
 - o RBA
- **The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**
 - o Slaughter Facilities
 - Class D & E licensed facilities
 - Class A & B licensed facilities
 - Demand for more Class A & B licensed facilities in the RDBN
- **Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)**
 - o New regulations
 - o Timing of new regulation – date of implementation

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- **The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services**
 - o Connectivity
 - o Funding program issues
 - o Connectivity to the household cost prohibitive
 - o Federal residence counts – inaccurate
 - o Installing fibre on BC Hydro Poles vs. fibre in the ground
 - Cost and challenges utilizing BC Hydro Poles
- **The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**
 - o ICI (Industrial Commercial Institutional) recycling
 - o Circular economy/waste diversion projects
 - o Recycling in Smithers
- **The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**
 - o Economic future of the region
 - Non-indigenous and Indigenous communities must be included in the same conversations
 - o Recovery and innovation
 - o First Nations agreements – Local Government participation e.g Forest Policy
 - o Understand and clarify relationships between First Nations Governments and Local Governments
 - o Manufacturing of wood products - do more with less
 - o Follow-up in regard to First Nations Agreements and the Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Apportionment
- **The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health**
 - o BC Ambulance crisis
- **The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**
 - o Economic future of the region
 - Non-indigenous and Indigenous communities must be included in the same conversations
 - o Recovery and innovation
 - o First Nations agreements – Local Government participation e.g Forest Policy
 - o Understand and clarify relationships between First Nations Governments and Local Governments
 - o Northern Development Initiative Trust funding for First Nations Liaison position
- **The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**
 - o Economic future of the region
 - Non-indigenous and Indigenous communities must be included in the same conversations
 - o Recovery and innovation
 - o First Nations agreements – Local Government participation e.g Forest Policy
 - o Understand and clarify relationships between First Nations Governments and Local Governments
- **The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions**
 - o Opioid crisis
 - o Increased homelessness due to mental health and addiction struggles
 - o Long term addiction
 - o Seasonal acceleration in communities of individuals with addictions
- **The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary – Emergency Preparedness**
 - o Emergency Services
 - o 9-1-1 Call Levy resolution

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- **The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation, and Infrastructure**
 - o Highway 16 Safety and additional passing lanes
 - o Highway 27 (Fort St. James), Highway 35 (Francois Lake South) and Highway 118 (Granisle) Safety

Request a meeting with the following Ministry Staff:

- o **Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:**
 - Economic future of the region
 - First Nations agreements – Local Government participation e.g. Forest Policy
 - Local government involvement earlier in First Nations agreement process
 - Non-indigenous and Indigenous communities must be included in the same conversations
 - Recovery and innovation
 - Understand and clarify relationships between First Nations Government and Local Government
 - Northern Development Initiative Trust funding for First Nations Liaison position
 - Nechako First Nations (NFN) – Memorandum of Understanding: Health of Nechako River
- o **BC Hydro**
 - Installing connectivity fibre on BC Hydro poles.

The following was discussed:

- Lack of follow-up from FLNRORD in regard to Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Apportionment discussions early in 2021
- Indigenous and non-indigenous community engagement and relationships
- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)
 - o Staff will follow up in regard to scheduling a meeting at UBCM regarding the RBA
 - o Advocating for the benefits of an agreement between the RBA and Province when opportunities arise
 - o Speaking to the benefits from the Northern Capital Planning Grant Funding
 - o Housing – Meeting June 24th with Minister Osborne and Minister Eby.

Union of B.C. Municipalities-Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in your Local Government

Discussion took place regarding:

- Local Government Leadership Academy education opportunity
- Developing a Code of Conduct Policy
 - o Board and staff
- Risk management
- Ensure ability to voice opinion
- Provincial legislation
- Code of Conduct Policy
 - o Guidance, recommendations, best practices and tools
- Social Media Policy
- Staff will provide examples of local government Code of Conduct Policies for the Board to review.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Administration Reports

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-6-3

“That the following Administration Reports be received:

-Annual UBCM Convention – Minister/Ministry Staff Meetings
-Annual UBCM Convention – BC Hydro Meeting
-Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in Your Local Government.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Canada's Residential School System

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2021-6-4

“That the Committee direct staff to bring forward to the June 24, 2021 Board Meeting Director Riis-Christianson's draft resolution in regard to Canada's residential school system for consideration.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako, Kitimat-Stikine and Cariboo

Chair Thiessen mentioned that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and Cariboo Regional District Chairs, Vice Chairs and CAOs met and discussed higher levels of government downloading, and downloading during a provincial emergency, updating Disaster Financial Assistance, inconsistent maintenance on Forest Service Roads, Agriculture support, weeds, Fire Departments and non-service issues, connectivity and First Nations capacity. Chair Thiessen noted the meeting was good and they will work to meet again.

Past Director Thomas Liversidge

Director McGuire thanked the Board for the expressions of condolences in the passing of Village of Granisle Councillor and past RDBN Director Thomas Liversidge. She noted that Granisle recently received grant funding for its senior's housing project which was a project Councillor Liversidge was an advocate.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Layton

C.W.2021-6-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:05 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant