

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert – arrived at 9:39 a.m., left at 10:05 a.m.
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Gerry Thiessen

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

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

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Megan D’Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator (West) – via Zoom
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East) – via Zoom
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – arrived at 10:18 a.m.
Shane Brienens, District of Houston – arrived at 10:17 a.m.
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 10:18 a.m.
Brad Layton, Village of Telkewa – arrived at 10:00 a.m.
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James
Tarilee Rauscher, Manager, Stakeholder Relations, BC Oil & Gas Commission – arrived at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom
Garth Thoroughgood, Executive Director, Major Projects, BC Oil & Gas Commission – arrived at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2021-6-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for June 10, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -May 13, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of May 13, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Crown Land Referral

Crown Land Referral No. 7410187

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-6-3

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Referral No. 7410187 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Referral

Town of Smithers – Rezoning Amendment No.21-04 (Area A)

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-4

“That Staff respond to the Town of Smithers that the RDBN has no comments regarding Rezoning Amendment No. 21-04.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

RDBN Food Economy and Food Hub Assessment Final Report

Discussion:

- Next steps and recommendations when the Report is brought forward to the Board
 - o Agriculture Coordinators undertaking business planning
- Clear outline on how to use the report
- Develop an easy to read version of the Final Report to provide to the public
- Connecting various organizations and groups undertaking food economy and food hub initiatives
 - o Opportunities to support organizations
- Importance of a network in the region.

Slaughter Facilities

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-6-5

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s (West) Slaughter Facilities memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion:

- Proposed Provincial changes not significantly improving accessibility to local meat within the RDBN
- Meatcutter education and training
 - o Initiating discussions with the College of New Caledonia in Vanderhoof
 - o Apprenticeships
- Bring forward shortfalls regarding Class D & E Licences with the Minister of Agriculture at the 2021 Virtual UBCM Convention
- Encouraging “buy local” requires adequate slaughter and meat processing abilities
- Increasing processing capabilities within the RDBN
- Class A & B licensed facilities
- Class D and E licensed facilities.

Growing Opportunities -Agriculture e-Newsletter

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-6-6

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s (East) Growing Opportunities – Agriculture e-Newsletter memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS

COVID-19 Safe Re-start Grant -Additional Allocation

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-7

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend that the Board approve an additional allocation of COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant in the amount of \$132,047 to Rural Directors for COVID Relief efforts within their jurisdiction.”

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-6-8

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee defer the COVID-19 Safe Re-start Grant – Additional Allocation.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Smithers Airport
- COVID-19 friendly workspaces in electoral areas
- RDBN Board room technology upgrade grant funding
 - o Tentative completion date for the RDBN Board room technology upgrade is September, 2021
- Funding areas that have expressed needs
- Flexibility in allocating funding moving forward and timelines for allocation.

RURAL REPORTS

Remuneration for Rural Directors

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-9

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Remuneration for Rural Directors memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

UBCM Electoral Area Director’s Summer Meeting -June 28, 202 10am-12pm

Chair Parker mentioned that UBCM’s Virtual Electoral Area Director’s Summer Meeting will take place June 28th, 10am – 12pm. Any Directors wanting to register for the free session may do so and if assistance is required to register Directors may contact staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-6-10

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:22 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant