

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
(VIRTUAL)

Thursday, November 4, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Annette Morgan
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – arrived at 11:49 a.m.
Janette Derksen, Diversion Supervisor
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others Leo Degroot, Wildlife Biologist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 12:18 p.m.
Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Development Initiative Trust – left at 12:31 p.m.
Heather Wiebe, Director, BC Caribou Recovery Program, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – left at 12:18 p.m.

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2021-10-1

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 4, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – October 21, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-10-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 21, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Heather Wiebe, Director, BC Caribou Recovery Program and Leo Degroot, Wildlife Biologist, RE: Aerial Removal of Wolves for Caribou Recovery

Chair Thiessen welcomed Heather Wiebe, Director, BC Caribou Recovery Program and Leo Degroot, Wildlife Biologist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Mr. Degroot provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Predator Reduction for Caribou Recovery

- Caribou in BC Background
- Predator Reduction Background
- Herds are Recommended Predator Reduction if....
- Why?
- How?
- Findings
- Adaptive Management is Key to Caribou Recovery
- In Summary.

The following was discussed:

- Importance of reducing predators
- Support for the predator reduction program
- Impacts of trains and railways on wildlife and increase of predators
 - o Taken into account in studying Caribou recovery
 - o Areas of the Province that do not have rail corridor
 - Caribou recovery still needed
- Black Bear and grizzly bear predation
 - o Bears an issue with calves
 - o Bear predation ranked lower in comparison to wolf predation
 - o Historically bear predation has remained relatively stable
- Economic case for conservation
 - o Balancing economic need of BC residents and addressing species at risk
 - o *Federal Species at Risk Act*
 - If Province doesn't address the Federal Government can address under the legislation
 - o Long term goal to have sustained resources on the landscape for First Nations to harvest and potentially a secondary harvest
- Tweedsmuir Park high wolf population
 - o Impacts to area farmers livestock
- Not supportive of the cow moose cull
- Wildfire impacts to caribou
 - o Tweedsmuir Herd/Chilcotin Herd area
 - o Caribou utilize burnt areas
 - o Move to greener areas – Tweedsmuir/Chilcotin areas are large geographically

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Heather Wiebe, Director, BC Caribou Recovery Program and Leo Degroot, Wildlife Biologist, RE: Aerial Removal of Wolves for Caribou Recovery (CONT'D)

- Bug kill area impacts to caribou
 - o Tweedsmuir Herd/Chilcotin Herd area
 - o Caribou utilize bug kill areas
- Harvested areas and caribou impacts
 - o Roads provide opportunities for wolves to travel at quicker speeds and easier access to caribou
- Caribou recovery is experiencing successes in locations where investments are being made
- Adaptive Management and commitment to setting aside land dedicated to caribou habitat and recovery
- A lot of values on the landscape
- Comments reflective of what is being heard
- So much at risk for economy/way of life
- Historical - wolf bounties
 - o not being considered
- Provincial policies that cover the entire province when areas of the province have very different needs and requirements.
 - o E.g. Grizzly moratorium.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Wiebe and Mr. Degroot for attending the meeting.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST – Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer RE: NDIT Initiatives Update

Chair Thiessen welcomed Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Mr. McKay provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Building a Stronger North

- Service Region
- Financial Review
 - o 2021 Output Metrics
 - o Overall Output Metrics
 - o Administrative costs
- Community Development
- Business Development
- Capacity Building
- Partner Programs.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. McKay and NDIT for its Local Government Internship Program and the positive impact it has had for local governments throughout the region.

Director Riis-Christianson questioned the demand for the Connecting British Columbia Partner Program. Mr. McKay noted that the greatest demand for funding is northern B.C. and the priority for NDIT is also northern B.C. Due to connectivity needs the program is oversubscribed which is consistent with other levels of government connectivity funding programs.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. McKay for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Delay in E-Comm 911 Dispatch to BC Emergency Health Services Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Atrill

C.W.2021-10-3

“That the Committee receive the Regional Fire Chief’s Delay in E-Comm 911 Dispatch to BC Emergency Health Services staff report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Calls to Action

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Morgan

C.W.2021-10-4

“That the Committee receive the First Nations Liaison’s Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Calls to Action memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison provided a brief overview of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Calls to Action #6 to #10 as identified in the memorandum. She noted a trauma informed lens is needed in discussing the #6 Call to Action.

Discussion took place in regard to addressing concerns that are being witnessed, how Directors can understand the resources in a community and advocating for resources that are required.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing – UBCM Follow-Up Letter

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Atrill

C.W.2021-10-5

“That the Committee receive the Correspondence from the Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing – UBCM Follow-Up Letter.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Process

Director Lambert brought forward that when a director opposes a resolution, the reason why is not identified.

UBCM Electoral Area Directors Forum and LGLA Leadership Forum 2022

Director Greenaway spoke of attending the Rural Directors Forum and the Local Government Leadership Academy Leadership Forum 2022 in Richmond, B.C. February 2022. Staff will bring forward information at the November Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2021-10-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:42 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services