

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 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) – 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/Recording Secretary

Others Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-10-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for December 16, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee
Meeting Minutes
-November 4, 2021

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-10-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of November 4, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Crown Land Referrals

Crown Land Referral
No. 7410208
Electoral Area D

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2021-10-3

“That the Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral Application No. 7410208 be submitted to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORT

Verbal Report – Chair Parker – RE: UNBC Veterinarian Update

- Chair Parker met with Mark Barnes, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)
- Discussed concerns regarding the shortage of veterinarians in northern BC and the lack of veterinarian educational opportunities in BC
- Coordinating a meeting for early 2022 with UNBC Animal Facility Manager, area Veterinarians, Lara Beckett, Director, Electoral Area C (Chilako River-Nechako), Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

The following was discussed:

- Essential to have veterinarians in the north
- Educate in the north, people will often stay in the north
- Need for large animal veterinarians
- Small animal vs. large animal veterinarian services
- BC Cattlemen’s Association indicated its willingness to assist.

RURAL REPORTS

Minor Services

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2021-10-4

“That the budgets discussed in the Chief Financial Officer’s Minor Services memorandum be included in the 2022 Financial Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding Invasive Plant Control Budget 5901 and grant funding to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC). Inviting the NWIPC to a future meeting was discussed.

Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid and Economic Development

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-10-5

“That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid and Economic Development memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Fisher indicated his wish to adjust Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) grant-in-aid. Staff will also provide a report to Directors that includes an all-in-one summary of COVID-19 relief funds and grant-in-aid funds.

RURAL REPORTS

Grant in Aid Update:
July - October, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-10-6

“That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development – Grant in Aid Update: July-October, 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Public Notices and Public Engagement

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided a brief overview of Bill 26 – Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Allowing Regional Districts more flexibility for public notices
- Removing the requirement for a Public Hearing where a rezoning is in line with the Official Community Plan
- Staff will bring forward a staff report with recommendations once regulation and guidance documents are released in 2022
- Director Fisher spoke of discussing possible changes as soon as possible
- Formal amendments cannot be completed until Bill 26 is passed and the regulations are released by the Province, but staff will bring forward a discussion paper as soon as possible to discuss pros and cons for advertising options.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-10-7

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:54 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services