

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher - via Zoom  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Chris Newell- via Zoom  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen – left at 1:12 p.m., returned at 1:15 p.m., left at 1:19 p.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 1:24 p.m.  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services via Zoom – arrived at 1:31 p.m.  
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 Shane Brienen, District of Houston – via Zoom  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle - via Zoom  
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2022-1-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for January 13, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

Rural/Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-December 16, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-1-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of December 16, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **AGRICULTURE REPORT**

### **Verbal Report – Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East) – Meat and Greet Information Session and Open House**

- Two virtual sessions
  - o Meat and Greet - Day 1
    - Discuss processing in the meat industry
    - Perspective of the meat producers
    - Key industry experts
      - Abbatoirs
      - Cut and wrap
      - Training
      - Government
    - Determine Gaps
    - Develop immediate action items and long-term planning
  - o Open House – Day 2
    - Two hour session
    - Open to general public
    - Target producers, students and others interested in meat industry
    - Educators
    - Local governments
    - Short presentation by experts
    - Mostly Q & A
    - Provide follow up documentation.

The following was discussed:

- Beneficial to have all key stakeholders together
- Provide direction moving forward
  - o Local initiatives
  - o Ministry of Agriculture
  - o Post-Secondary Education
  - o Outreach materials
  - o Advocacy
- Draft Agenda items
- Developing solutions to identify gaps.

## **RURAL REPORTS**

### **2022 Local Government Elections Orientation Package**

The following was discussed regarding additional material for the 2022 Local Government Elections Orientation Package:

- Background regarding existing services within Electoral Areas
- A list of groups/organizations within Electoral Areas
- Outline of organizations
  - o Northern Development Initiative Trust
  - o Regional Hospital Districts
  - o Smithers Transit Committee, etc.
- Meeting process and procedures – Meeting 101
  - o How and when to make a motion
  - o Brief outline of Roberts Rules of Order
  - o Commonly used acronyms
- RDBN structure
  - o Staff/Director relationship

## RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Expectation of Directors
  - o Number of meetings per month
  - o Times of meetings
    - Consider options to adjust meeting times
  - o Potential travel time to attend RDBN meetings
  - o Potential commitment to attend other conventions and meetings
- All Candidates Forum
  - o Consider hosting at electoral area community halls
- Provide public communication regarding the 2022 Local Government Elections and nomination process.

### NWIPC 2021 Update

Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East) provided an overview of the NWIPC 2021 Update memorandum. The following was discussed:

- NWIPC hired a new Field Manager for 2021
- 2021 weather impacted the ability to conduct treatments
- On-the-ground invasive plant surveys
- New signage planned for recreational access points
- Treatments of Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure contractor gravel pits
- Funding allocation
- Landowner Rebate program
  - o Minimal uptake for the program
  - o Look at options to promote the program.

### Minor Fire Services

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

### RDC.2022-1-3

“That the budgets discussed in the Minor Fire Services memorandum be included in the 2022 Financial Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 2022 Capital Budget Pre-Approval – Fort Fraser Fire Truck

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### RDC.2021-1-4

“That the Committee recommend that the Board pre-approve \$740,000 in the 2022 Fort Fraser Local Fire Department Budget for the purchase of two fire apparatus for the Fort Fraser Fire Department.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### COVID-19 Relief Fund Applications

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### RDC.2022-1-5

“That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the following applications for COVID-19 Relief Funds  
**-Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)**  
- Fort St. James Curling Club - Utilities and Ice Preparation  
- \$4,932.18  
- Fort St. James Speed Skating Club – Ice Fees for 2021/22  
Session - \$5,000.00.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2021-1-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:48 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services