

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dolores Funk  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert – arrived at 12:03 p.m.  
Linda McGuire  
Annette Morgan – via Zoom  
Bob Motion – via Zoom  
Chris Newell – via Zoom  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom

Director Absent Clint Lambert, Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – via Zoom – arrived at 11:20 a.m., left at 11:26 a.m.  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – left at 11:26 a.m.  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 11:15 a.m.  
Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison – arrived at 11:20 a.m., left at 12:00 p.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

**C.W.2022-2-1**

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 10, 2022 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

### **Committee of the Whole Minutes – January 13, 2022**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Brienen

#### **C.W.2022-2-2**

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of January 13, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS**

### **Bulkley Nechako Emergency and Public Alerts Breakdown**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Parker

#### **C.W.2022-2-3**

“That the Committee receive the Regional Fire Chief’s Bulkley Nechako Emergency and Public Alerts Breakdown memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Director Fisher mentioned the use of the Bulkley Nechako Emergency and Public Alerts for the closure of the Transfer Station due to supply chain issues was beneficial. He suggested the use of RDBN facilities to advertise the Alert System.

### **North Central Local Government Association Resolution Submission Guidelines and Deadlines**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

#### **C.W.2022-2-4**

“That the Committee receive the Director of Corporate Services’ North Central Local Government Association Resolutions Submission Guidelines and Deadlines memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Regional Business Liaison Update**

Moved by Director Brienen  
Seconded by Director Petersen

#### **C.W.2022-2-5**

“That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Regional Business Liaison Update memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place regarding the Community Futures Nadina Regional Business Liaison in the western portion of the region. Staff will follow up and provide an update at a future meeting.

### **Draft Regional Economic Development Strategy**

Moved by Director Brienen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

#### **C.W.2022-2-6**

“That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Draft Regional Economic Development Strategy memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

The following was discussed regarding the Draft Regional Economic Development Strategy:

- The report was produced in house
- Province provided a toolkit and support from Regional Economic Development Managers
- The report will be used to create annual work plans and budgets
- Tourism/Attraction and Retention
  - o Individual communities with support from the RDBN
  - o RDBN Tourism provides a platform for communities that may not be represented within tourism in the region – high impact for small communities
  - o Component of the Highway 16 corridor
- Parks and Trails
  - o Economic Development provides support to secure grant funding opportunities
- Stakeholders that participated in the drafting of the Draft Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Providing support to the First Nations Liaison
  - o A number of Provincial Agreements with First Nations include economic development e.g. Carrier Sekani Pathways Forward 2.0 Agreement
- Food Security
- Forestry industry
- Sample OCP – Economic Development Section
  - o Connects to the work being done with the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA).

## **Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action**

Discussion took place regarding:

- Future memorandums potentially aligning the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action to RDBN policies and plans e.g. Land Use Planning
- 2017 federal budget, the government committed \$120.7 million over five years to address the over representation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice and corrections system
  - o The following questions were asked:
    - Have any regional programs received funding?
    - Are there any policies that the RCMP are utilizing/implementing?
    - Decisions the RDBN can make to support current and or new programs/policies
- Recent meeting in Vanderhoof with RCMP, social services agencies, court services, mental health, medical stakeholders, etc.
  - o Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- Mental health and addictions impacts all segments of society
- Developing a discussion paper to utilize in meeting with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Minister of Health at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention
  - o Request Ministers work with the RDBN regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action
  - o Staff will develop a discussion paper

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Car 60 Pilot Project in Prince George
  - o Partnership between Northern Health and the RCMP – plainclothes police officer and a psychiatric nurse ride together in an unmarked police car responding to mental health crisis calls
- Individuals struggling to find supports regarding mental health and addictions
  - o RCMP contacts may not always be the most successful point of contact
  - o Communities in the region are experiencing challenges.

### Federal Government Committed funding & UBCM Discussion Paper

Moved by Director Funk  
Seconded by Director McGuire

#### C.W.2022-2-7

“That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to research the funding available, allocation and programs currently in place in the region in relation to the 2017 federal government committed \$120.7 million over five years to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice and corrections system; and further, that a Discussion Paper be drafted when meeting with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Minister of Health and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation at the Union of BC Municipalities.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

#### C.W.2022-2-8

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper

Discussion took place regarding:

- Providing feedback to the Province
  - o Regional District willing to provide input through its Official Community Plan Process and Land Use Planning
- Legislation - Province to implement which will provide the requirement standards
- Province needs to lead the process
- Ensure First Nation Communities are included in the process.

Director Funk provided an outline of the process undertaken in Saskatchewan in her past work role regarding water sustainability plans. She spoke of the importance of having all key stakeholders at the table together. She mentioned that the Province of Saskatchewan provided leadership and technical knowledge through the process and information from the Watershed Plan would be included in OCP’s and land use planning.

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### **Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper**

Moved by Director Funk  
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2022-2-9

“That the Committee recommend that the Board submit a response to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in regard to Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper; and further, that staff provide a report to the Board prior to submission.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2022-2-10

“That the Committee receive the Director of Planning’s Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper staff report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions – Union of BC Municipalities Convention Follow Up**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2022-2-11

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions – Union of BC Municipalities Convention Follow Up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

#### **Skeena Roundtable Design Workshop**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2022-2-12

“That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board appoints the Chief Administrative Officer or First Nations Liaison to attend the Skeena Roundtable Design Workshop on their behalf.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **North Central Local Government Association AGM & Convention May 3-6, 2022 – Fort St. John**

Director McGuire brought forward the possibility of chartering a plane from Burns Lake to Fort St. John for the North Central Local Government Association AGM & Convention May 3-6, 2022. Discussion took place in regard to the Board chartering a plane to Fort Nelson for a past NCLGA AGM & Convention, the potential for the Convention to be held virtually and in person and the potential costs.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)**

North Central Local  
Government Association  
AGM & Convention  
May 3-6, 2022 – Fort St. John

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2022-2-13

“That the Committee recommend that the Board write a letter to the North Central Local Government Association requesting that a virtual option be considered for its AGM and Convention on May 3-6, 2022 in Fort St. John.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NCLGA AGM & Convention  
May 3-6, 2022 – Fort St. John  
Charter Flight

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2022-2-14

“That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to investigate the costs of a charter flight from Burns Lake to Fort St. John for the North Central Local Government Association AGM and Convention on May 3-6, 2022 in Fort St. John.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2022-2-15

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Gerry Thiessen, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
Corporate Services