

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Shane Brien

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Annette Morgan – via Zoom
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson – via Zoom
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom
Gerry Thiessen – left at 11:25 a.m., returned at 11:40 a.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – left at 10:35 a.m., returned at 11:15 a.m., left at 11:41 a.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – via Zoom – left at 11:40 a.m.
Jevan Hanchard, A/Regional Executive Director, Skeena, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – via Zoom – left at 11:40 a.m.
Cora McIntosh – via Zoom
Jill Park, District Manager, Stuart Nechako, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – via Zoom – left at 11:40 a.m.
Luke Weyman, Old Growth Specialist, Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – via Zoom – left at 11:40 a.m.

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brien called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Atrill

NRC.2022-2-1

“That the Natural Resources Committee Agenda for March 17, 2022, be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Minutes
– January 13, 2022

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Atrill

NRC.2022-2-2

“That the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Jevan Hanchard, A/Regional Executive Director, Skeena and Luke Weyman, Old Growth Specialist, Skeena Region RE: Old Growth Deferral Update

Chair Brienen welcomed Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District and Jevan Hanchard, A/Regional Executive Director, Skeena, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Ms. Eagles introduced Jill Park, District Manager, Stuart Nechako District and Luke Weyman, Old Growth Specialist, Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

Mr. Hanchard spoke to the following:

- Implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review Report, A New Future for Old Forests Recommendation 6
- To consider interim referral of areas identified by Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) as at risk
- Initiative has been challenging in terms of roll out to date
 - o Some of the initial communication heightened concerns.

Mr. Weyman provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Old Growth Strategic Review -The Path Forward

- Implementation of Old Growth Strategic Review Recommendations
- Indigenous Engagement and Old Growth Deferrals
 - o Recommendation 1 and 6
- Impacts from Communities
- Risks and Concerns
- Old Growth Strategic Review - 14 Recommendations.

The following was discussed:

- Communication and information provided by the Province created challenges and frustrations
- Current stage in the process - “Immediate Measures”
- 2023 timeline for completion unrealistic
 - o Unrealistic timelines erode public trust
- Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) mapped polygons
 - o A large number of First Nations are not supportive
 - o Some First Nations requesting more time to review
- First Nations Agreements and consultation
- Community and partner First Nations uncertainty
 - o Licensees continue to submit permits and approvals have been provided

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Jevan Hanchard, A/Regional Executive Director, Skeena and Luke Weyman, Old Growth Specialist, Skeena Region RE: Old Growth Deferral Update

- BC Timber Supply (BCTS)
 - o Concerns regarding the potential impacts to smaller operations
 - o Impacts are unknown
 - o Forest based communities across the Province have provided the same message to FLNRORD
 - o First Nations in the Lakes Timber Supply Area
 - Business has moved forward
- Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Development and Rural Operations Apportionment decision
 - o Waiting for a decision since January 2020
 - o Currently on the Ministers purview
 - Apportionment will most likely not take old growth into consideration
- Stuart Nechako Region and First Nations in the region
- Transition Programs
 - o Concerns regarding youth and young adults leaving the communities due to uncertainty in the forest industry
- Inclusive governance
- Old Growth Strategy Report (OGSR) moving forward due to public values and unsustainable management
 - o Shift in ecosystem health from timber centric approach
- Extensive engagement through the OGSR process
- Socioeconomic impacts
 - o Forestry sector impacts the agriculture sector
- Moving forward
 - o Need realistic timelines, good communication with all stakeholders
- Infrastructure in communities built by forest companies in the past and that support no longer exists.

Chair Brienen thanked Ms. Eagles and Messrs. Hanchard and Weyman for attending the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Beth Eagles, District Manager Moved by Director Lambert
Nadina Natural Resource Seconded by Director McGuire
Operations and Rural
Development-Old Growth Update

NRC.2022-2-3

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from Beth Eagles, District Manager Nadina Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development-Old Growth Update.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Bulkley Woodlot Association Moved by Director Petersen
-Proposed Old Growth Deferral Seconded by Director Storey
Impacts to Local Woodlot Licences

NRC.2022-2-4 "That the Committee receive the correspondence from Bulkley Woodlot Association – Proposed Old Growth Deferral Impacts to Local Woodlot Licences."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Village of McBride – Old Moved by Director Storey
Growth Deferral Announcement Seconded by Director Atrill
on November 2, 2021

NRC.2022-2-5 "That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Village of McBride – Old Growth Forest Deferral Announcement on November 2, 2021."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Atrill

NRC.2022-2-6 "That the meeting be adjourned at 11:42 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shane Brienen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services