

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Chris Newell
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson – via Zoom
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 – left at 10:18 a.m.
Justin Greer, Economic Development Assistant – left at 9:50 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:05 a.m., returned at 10:16 a.m.
Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East) – via Zoom
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 10:18 a.m.
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Cora McIntosh, via Zoom – arrived at 9:40 a.m.
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

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

AGENDA Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-3-1 “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for February 10, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -February 10, 2022 Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2022-3-2 “That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of February 10, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Premium Pellet Referral
No. 16502 – Electoral Area F Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2022-3-3 “That staff inform the applicant that the Regional District endorses the District of Vanderhoof’s Letter dated March 4, 2022 in regard to the Premium Pellet Emissions Permit Amendment.”

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-3-4 “That Motion RDC.2022-3-3 be amended to include: that the Board encourages Premium Pellet to look at domestic pellet use and cardboard recycling in its uses”.

Opposed: Director Greenaway CARRIED
Director Petersen

(All/Directors/Majority)

“That the question be called on motion 2022-3-3 as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Verbal Report – Chair Parker

- Veterinarian Shortages
 - o February 16th meeting with local veterinarians
 - o Investigating a reduction to international veterinarian accreditation programs
 - Complicated process
 - o Veterinarian Technician Program at CNC/UNBC
 - o UNBC and Washington State University in discussion regarding bridging programs
 - o Met with Kevin Boone, General Manager, BC Cattlemen’s Association
 - RDBN work in the agriculture sector is advanced
 - Mr. Boone brought forward the veterinarian shortage issue to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
 - o Continue to prioritize and advocate for 20 seats in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan
 - o Investigating short, mid and long-term solutions
 - o Need for large animal veterinarians
 - o Recruitment and retention in northern BC
 - Potential loan forgiveness programs.
- Meat Cutter Training Meeting
 - o Attended a meeting regarding meat cutter training in the region March 15, 2022
 - BC Meat Cutters
 - Thompson River University (TRU)
 - College of New Caledonia (CNC)
 - School District No. 91 Nechako Lakes
 - BV Custom Slaughter
 - RDBN Agriculture Coordinators and Manager of Regional Economic Development
 - o TRU’s meat cutter course
 - o Researching options to bring a similar program to the region
 - o After the meeting staff received call from Dean of Trades at Coast Mountain College and they will reach out to Dean at CNC and TRU for further discussions

AGRICULTURE REPORTS (CONT'D)

Receipt of Chair's Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2022-3-5

"That Chair Parker's verbal reports be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GO Podcast Series

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-3-6

"That the Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's (West) GO Podcast Series memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS

Grant in Aid for Gas Tax Trade

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-3-7

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the following trades of Grant in Aid and Federal Gas Tax:

- 1) That Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) give Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) \$30,000 in Federal Gas Tax.
- 2) That Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) give Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) \$30,000 in Grant in Aid.
- 3) That Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) give Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) \$10,000 in Federal Gas Tax.
- 4) That Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) give Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) \$10,000 in Grant in Aid.
- 5) That Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) give Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) \$7,000 in Federal Gas Tax.
- 6) That Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) give Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) \$7,000 in Grant in Aid."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid – Lake Kathlyn Protection Society

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-3-8

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$42,415 in Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) Grant in Aid monies to Lake Kathlyn Protection Society, to be paid upon invoice submission for capital repairs for the Lake Kathlyn Weed Harvesting Service."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

COVID-19 Relief Fund Applications

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-3-9

“That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the following applications for COVID-19 Relief Funds:

-Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

- Paul Lychak Community Hall – Insurance, Hydro, Maintenance
- \$6,533.17
- Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club – Insurance 2020/2021 and
2021/2022 - \$8,091.00
- Smithers Gallery Association – Workstations - \$938.52
- Glenwood Hall Committee Association – Insurance and Hydro
- \$6,424.13
- Telkwa Museum Society – Utilities - \$4,452.94
- Bulkley Valley Folk Music Society – Insurance and Accounting
Fees - \$9,294.00

-Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

- Burns Lake Woman’s Vortex Hockey Ice Rental - \$3,494.40
- Rose Lake Community Club – Insurance and Hydro - \$1,820.86
- Decker Lake Recreation Commission – Utilities, Society Filing,
Cleaning and Sanitizing supplies - \$2,599.87

-Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

- Fort St. James Community Foundation – Insurance, Society
Fees, Website Fees, Rent - \$3,917.31
- Stuart Lake Recycling Co-op – Insurance and Hydro - \$3,126.46

-Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural)

- Fort Fraser Community Recreation Society – Insurance -
\$2,451.00

-Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

- Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission – Insurance and Hydro
- \$5,119.45
- Colleymount Recreation Commission – Hydro, Propane, Society
Registration, Chamber Membership - \$1,431.96
- Francois Tchesinkut Lake Recreation Commission – Insurance
-\$1,430.00

-Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)

- Mapes Blackwater Sob Lake Community Club – Insurance and
Hydro - \$4,050.00
- Vanderhoof Community Foundation – Directors Insurance and
Zoom Membership - \$1,101.00
- Vanderhoof International Airshow – Insurance, Accounting
Fees, Membership, Deposits - \$3,139.37

-Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

- Granisle and District Senior Citizen’s Association Society
– 2022 Insurance - \$6,423.00.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Northern Development Initiative Trust Business Façade Improvement Program Funding Update Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-3-10 "That the Committee receive the Economic Development Assistant's Northern Development Initiative Trust Business Façade Improvement Program Funding Update."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Directors' Remuneration and HRVA Meetings Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2022-3-11 "That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Rural Directors' Remuneration and HRVA Meetings memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Arts, Culture and Recreation Services Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-3-12 "That the Committee recommend to the Board that the Rural Arts, Culture and Recreation Budgets be included in the Regional District's budget bylaw."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Contribution Fire Department Budgets Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-3-13 "That the Committee recommend to the Board that the Rural Contribution Fire Department Budgets be included in the Regional District's budget bylaw."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area "C" Grant in Aid for Fort St. James Search and Rescue Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-3-14 1) "That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the taxation changes requested, and;

2) That the Committee recommend that the Board approve \$100,000.00 in Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) Grant in Aid monies for the Fort St. James Search and Rescue for the purchase of a Search and Rescue Building."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

A Highly Opinionated
Introduction to Regional
Districts

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-3-15

“That the Committee receive the Highly Opinionated Introduction to Regional Districts – in Four Parts by Donna McMahon, Area E Director for the Sunshine Coast Regional District.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-3-16

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services