

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Clint Lambert  
Chris Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – via Zoom  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner – via Zoom  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-4-1

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for April 14, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -March 17, 2022

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-4-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of March 17, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Addition to Reserve Referral**

Addition to Cheslatta Reserve 1 Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2022-4-3 “That the RDBN send the attached letter as the RDBN’s response to Indigenous Services Canada’s request for comments for Cheslatta Carrier Nation’s request for an Addition to Reserve.

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Potential taxation implications
- Director Lambert has met with Cheslatta Carrier Nation, including discussions regarding potential impacts to the Southside Fire Department funding and developing an Official Community Plan for the Southside of Francois Lake
- Importance of ensuring that discussions are taking place with First Nations communities regarding additions to reserves.

### **Mine Referral**

Notice of Work File #14675-20/ Mine #1650867 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-4-4 “That the comment sheet be provided to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation as the Regional District’s comments on Notice of Work File #14675-20/MINE #1650867.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE REPORTS**

### **Verbal Report – Chair Parker**

- Veterinarian shortage
  - o Province announced 20 additional seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan program for one year
    - No commitment for future years
    - Director Petersen mentioned that he spoke with a student from Vanderhoof in the program and she expressed her appreciation to the Regional District for their advocacy work
  - o Continuing with resolution to NCLGA and UBCM – will bring forward amendment to the resolution for review
  - o Chair Parker along with Mark Barnes, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, University of Northern BC, met with Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount, Coralee Oakes, MLA Cariboo North and Ian Paton, MLA Delta South, Critic for Agriculture & Food
    - UNBC is investigating options to provide educational programs
    - BC Veterinarian Society taking the lead regarding international veterinarian wanting to come to BC to practice.
- Integris Credit Union Meeting
  - o Understanding Economics in the Region
    - Housing needs and Labour shortage were the key challenges identified.

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

### **Receipt of Chair's Verbal Reports**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2022-4-5

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Letter to Minister Kang Re: Investment in More BC Vets**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC>2022-4-6

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve sending the letter to the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister for Advanced Education, Skills and Training regarding Investment in More BC Vets."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **RURAL REPORTS**

### **COVID-19 Relief Fund Applications**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-4-7

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

#### **-Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)**

- Treehouse Housing Association – The Ark Playday Centre – Insurance - \$2,742.48
- Smithers Zone Canadian Ski Patrol – Insurance and Membership Fees - \$3,772.08

#### **-Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural)**

- Burns Lake Community Garden Society – Insurance - \$673.44
- Ride Burns – Insurance and Fees - \$2,654.33
- Burns Lake & District Chamber of Commerce – Shop Local Campaign - \$2,000.00
- Lakes District Fair Association – Memberships, Fees, Insurance - \$922.68

#### **-Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural)**

- Fraser Lake Minor Hockey Association – Rental Fees - \$3,724.98
- Fraser Lake Curling Club – Rental Fees - \$1,419.00
- Fort Fraser Community Recreation Society – Utilities - \$856.89

#### **-Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)**

- Francois Tchesinkut Lake Recreation Commission – Hydro - \$2,216.50
- Ride Burns – Insurance and Fees - \$2654.33
- Lakes District Fair Association – Memberships, Fees, Insurance - \$4,446.52."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Legacy Funding**

Discussion took place regarding potential legacy funding opportunities with TransCanada Coastal GasLink. Further information regarding any legacy funding thus far to the Regional District, what is needed, what legacy funding has member municipalities received, rural area support was discussed. Staff will follow up and bring forward information for consideration at a future Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting.

### **Overdose Crisis and Supports**

Director Lambert brought forward concerns regarding the record number of overdose cases recorded in February, 2022. He spoke of lack of facilities and assistance for those dealing with addictions. Chair Parker spoke of bringing the issue forward at a future Board or Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **Follow-up to Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine Delegation at Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Chair Parker spoke of the criteria restrictions regarding Northern Capital Planning Grant funding and having a follow up discussion with Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine regarding the challenges. Federal Gas Tax and Nechako Kitamaat Development Fund was also discussed. Chair Parker, Director Fisher and CAO Helgesen will meet for further discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Fisher

### **RDC.2022-4-8**

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:34 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services