



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Natural Resources Committee
(Committee of the Whole)
Agenda

Thursday, September 8, 2022

PAGE NO.

ACTION

Agenda – June 16, 2022

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-4

Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes
- June 16, 2022

Approve

REPORT

5-13

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
-Possible Approaches to Regional Forestry and
Natural Resource Challenges

Direction

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Shane Brien

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom – arrived at 10:15 a.m.
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert – left at 10:18 a.m., returned at 10:25 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Annette Morgan
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarra Storey – via Zoom – arrived at 10:30 a.m.
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other Dave Stevens, President, Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brien called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

NRC.2022-3-1

“That the Natural Resources Committee Agenda for June 16, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

**Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Minutes
– March 17, 2022**

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

NRC.2022-3-2

“That the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

KPMG Request for Comments Re: Re-certification Audit of Sierra Pacific Industries and West Fraser Mills Ltd.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Past international certification for planting and harvesting of trees
- Forest professionals to review document
- Providing a response as a region
- Impacts of First Nations Agreements and ecological considerations
- Risk Assessment for Canada
- Re-certification Audit
 - o Chain of custody and wood re-certification practices
 - Prove which tree each forest product is produced from and tracked through the market system
 - o Risk Assessment
 - What's the risk of not being able to properly track the wood
- Further clarification and information required
- Contacting forest consultants (Al Gorley, Ray Schultz) to review document and provide invitation to attend future meeting
- Determine top 5 forestry topics for RDBN advocacy
 - o Old Growth Deferral
 - o First Nations Agreements
 - o Timber Harvesting Licenses control
 - o Lack and utilization of Fibre
- Request more time for consultation and to provide comment
- Addressing topics in a timely manner where necessary
- Taking the opportunity to comment when provided and voice concerns
- Utilizing RDBN staff forestry knowledge
- Collective voice from the Regional District.

Invite Forest Consultants to a Future Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Moved by Director Thiessen
 Seconded by Director McGuire

NRC.2022-3-3

“That the Committee invite Al Gorley, President, Triangle Resources Inc. and Ray Schultz, Registered Professional Forester, and Independent Consultant to a future Natural Resources Committee Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items:

- Developing and prioritizing top 5 forestry topics for RDBN advocacy
 - o Old Growth Deferral
 - o First Nations Agreements
 - o Timber Harvesting License control
 - o Lack and utilization of fibre
 - o Insight into cumulative impacts on the land base – how are they being considered
 - How being addressed by various ministries.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Newell

NRC.2022-3-4

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:35 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shane Brienen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Natural Resources Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: September 8, 2022
Subject: Possible Approaches to Regional Forestry and Natural Resource Challenges

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Direction.

BACKGROUND

At the June 16, 2022 Natural Resources Committee Meeting, a motion was passed regarding engaging with Al Gorley or Ray Schultz to develop and prioritize the top forestry issues in the region for RDBN advocacy. On August 16th, Al Gorley attended the RDBN and met with Chair Brienen, Director Thiessen, and staff to have a conversation about forestry issues and the RDBN's possible approach to the issues moving forward.

Al Gorley expressed an interest in assisting the RDBN and provided the attached document titled "Possible Approaches to Regional Forestry and Natural Resource Challenges" for the Board's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Possible Approaches to Regional Forestry and Natural Resource Challenges



Possible Approaches

TO REGIONAL FORESTRY
AND NATURAL RESOURCE
CHALLENGES



September 2022

NOTE: The content of this document is intended to support a preliminary problem solving dialogue and does not necessarily represent the opinions or positions of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, or of the author.

Situation

High economic dependence on forest harvesting and manufacturing

High level of uncertainty and concern due to:

- Constraints on the historical timber supply arising from
 - *Legacy of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic*
 - *Wildfires*
 - *Evolving / changing provincial forest policies*
- Incomplete information about how the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) will be implemented
- Perceived lack of alignment between regional and provincial interests...

... etcetera

Examples of current uncertainties

- Status and direction of G2G (Province and First Nations) agreements, and potential community impacts.
- Economic implications of old growth deferrals (including BCTS) and the longer-term approach.
- Tenure transfer policies and the implications for jobs and businesses in the region.
- Stumpage policies, including potential changes to community forest stumpage rates and the local economic consequences.
- On-going viability of local manufacturing operations and potential for value-added.

...etcetera

What is the role of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako in forestry and natural resource management?

- FORMAL MANDATE
- PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITY

Historically forced to react on an ad-hoc basis when becoming aware of a proposed initiative.

Key challenges

Information

- *Access to timely, relevant, complete, and coordinated information and analysis to support informed input or participation by the RDBN or its representatives.*

Process

- *Clear and predictable mechanisms for receiving information, engaging in dialogue, and giving valued input to plans and decisions, including feedback.*

Capacity

- *Resources to engage sufficiently on key matters, ask the right questions, and facilitate development and documentation of high quality input, including coordination with other local governments with similar interests.*

Potential actions

Short-term (more focused and proactive within existing mandate)

- Communicate proactively with Provincial and FN governments (political and bureaucracy).
- Continue to work through regional and provincial local government associations to address specific issues.
- Set priorities - adopt a screening process for known and expected issues, for example:
 - local issue with a significant direct impact on one or more communities within the RDBN (e.g., AAC / apportionment).
 - local or regional issue with a significant indirect impact on one or more communities within the RDBN.
 - regional or provincial issue with a disproportionately large impact on RDBN.
 - provincial issue with a proportional impact on RDBN.
- Utilize existing capacity (including trusted local advisors) – ad hoc, or establish an informal advisory committee or task force of knowledgeable people to support the RDBN Board & committee(s).
- Invite public input to “position” or “interest” statements.
- Using best information available, develop “position” or “interest” statements on key and emerging issues and communicate them widely.
- ***Others?***

Potential actions

Longer term (build on short-term to formalize mandate and address key challenges)

- Create and fund a standing position or facilitated advisory group.
- Develop a formal information and engagement protocol with key ministries.
- Regional “leadership” table with Province/FN/local government.
- Develop and promote (preferably with adjacent communities, including FN communities) a regional forest sector vision and strategy. This could be an adaptation of work done by the beetle coalitions several years ago.
- Work with like-minded local governments to establish a facilitating mechanism (e.g., OBAC model).
- Work through regional and provincial associations to give municipalities a formal (legal) role.
- Find ways to ensure institutional history on forest management matters.
- ***Others?***

Next steps?

- Address immediate priorities (top 2 or 3 most urgent).
- Reach out to First Nations' government leaders.
- Identify additional potential short and longer-term actions.
- Involve a small number of local experts in a strategy session.
- Identify ways to more effectively utilize existing mechanisms (e.g., Skeena Roundtable).
- Identify capacity opportunities.
- ***Others?***

