

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 13, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert – arrived at 9:18 a.m.
Chris Newell
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Manager of Economic Development
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator, East
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-9-1 “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for October 13, 2022 be approved.”

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

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -September 8, 2022 Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-9-2 “That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of September 8, 2022 be approved.”

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

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Food and Agriculture Plan -Implementation Update

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-9-3

"That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Food and Agriculture Plan Implementation Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Pollinator Assessment and Agriculture Crop/Climate Analysis for the Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regions of BC

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-9-4

"That the Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's (West) Pollinator Assessment and Agriculture Crop/Climate Analysis for the Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regions of BC memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS - Chair Parker

Veterinary Shortage

- Minister Anne Kang, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training providing funding to secure 20 seats available at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan
 - o Future funding not guaranteed
 - o Requires Provincial Treasury approval
 - o Working Group to continue advocacy to ensure continued funding
- Economic Impact Study to be completed end of February 2023.

BC Cattlemen's Meeting in Burns Lake

- Good turnout
- Topic of discussion - Lakes Resiliency
 - o Ministry of Forests decisions impact the agriculture sector
- Director Lambert's work in conducting s100 training
- Recognition for the work the RDBN is doing regarding veterinarian shortages.

RURAL REPORT

Final COVID Relief Funds Allocation

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2022-9-5

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

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

- Regional Transit Service – Operations - \$20,562

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

- Regional Transit Service – Operations - \$2,400

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

- Fort St. James Music Makers – Insurance and Utilities - \$5,000
- Fort St. James Curling Club – Hydro - \$3,598

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

- Regional Transit Service – Operations - \$2,512

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

- Regional Transit Service – Operations - \$9,097

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

- Village of Granisle – Solar panels for rural connectivity tower - \$3,288
- Granisle Power Boat Club – Insurance and Hydro - \$3,064."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Chair's Report

Chair Parker thanked the Rural/Agriculture Committee for the work that has been accomplished on key rural issues in the region. He commented that the RDBN is recognized for its work in agriculture and the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator Position.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-9-6

"In accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, it is the opinion of the Committee that matters pertaining to Sections 90(1)(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the committee, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District if they were held in public (legacy funding), may be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-9-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 9:27 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services