



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Thursday, March 9, 2023

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA, March 9, 2023

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

3-7

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- February 9, 2023

Approve

DELEGATION

PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM

Deb Zehr, Executive Director and Andrew Kemp Engagement Specialist, Immigration Programs, Ministry of Municipal Affairs Immigration Services & Strategic Planning Division
RE: Provincial Nominee Program

AGRICULTURE DISCUSSION

VERBAL REPORT – Director Parker

- Veterinarian Shortage and Food Security

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Land/Mining Referral

8-14

Cameron Kral, Planning Technician
Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410290 and
Notice of Work No. 2000276-202201
Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Recommendation

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>RURAL REPORTS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
15-17	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – BC Rural Center “Keeping it Rural” Conference June 1-2, 2023 in Kelowna	Recommendation
18	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Northwest Trade Expo, May 5-6 in Smithers	Recommendation

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKORURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGThursday, February 9, 2023

PRESENT:

Chair	Clint Lambert
Directors	Judy Greenaway Shirley Moon Chris Newell Mark Parker Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg
Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Megan D'Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator – via Zoom Nellie Davis, Regional Manager of Economic Development – left at 2:29 p.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 2:35 p.m., left at 2:42 p.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Others	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – via Zoom Shane Brienen, District of Houston – left at 1:53 p.m., returned at 2:04 p.m., left at 2:29 p.m. Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – left at 2:29 p.m. Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof – left at 2:29 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lambert called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director NewellRDC.2023-1-1

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for February 9, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -October 13, 2022 Moved by Director Parker
 Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2023-1-2 "That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of October 13, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORT

Northwest Invasive Plant Council 2023 Budget Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2023-1-3 "That the Committee recommend that the Board approve a contribution of \$35,000 to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council in the 2023 Invasive Plant Control Budget; and further, write a letter requesting a future meeting to discuss future funding of the program."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC)
 - o Metrics
 - o Funders
 - o Environmental Services budget provides funds to treat invasive plants at RDBN Transfer Stations and Landfills
 - o Yearly reporting is provided
- Working towards helping landowners manage invasive plants
- Involvement and funding from other agencies
 - o Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's road right-of-way
 - Need for timely mowing of road right-of-way
 - Lack of treating sand pits
- Cost and economic impact to agriculture landowners significant
- NWIPC and provincial responsibility and roles in managing invasive plants
- Homeowner Rebate program
 - o Underutilized
 - o Not intended for larger properties or large scale agriculture lands
- More work to be done regarding education and resources available
- Prioritize areas

AGRICULTURE REPORT (CONT'D)

- Funding considerations/future considerations
- Finding an effective solution to the issue of invasive plants particularly on public lands adjacent to private properties
 - o Utilizing alternative methods of treatment e.g. intensive grazing
- Advocating the province in regard to the economic impacts of invasive species
- Reviewing funding allocation in the future.

AGRICULTURE DISCUSSION

Commercial Kitchen Map Project

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2023-1-4

"That the Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's Commercial Kitchen Map Project memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Lambert spoke of potentially certifying community halls as commercial kitchens. In order to sell processed products such as jams, they need to be produced in a commercial food safe kitchen.

VERBAL REPORTS - Chair Parker

Meeting with the Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food - Veterinary Shortage and Food Security

- Virtual meeting
- With the recent provincial cabinet shuffle Minister Alexis is new to the role of Minister of Agriculture and Food
 - o Unaware of the challenges of the number of provincially-subsidized and non-provincially subsidized seats in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan
 - Challenges and uncertainty for local students attending the program due to costs
- Frustrations
- Continue to advocate
- Economic Impact Study and funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food
 - o Encouraged continued support
 - o Draft document under review
 - o Determining circulation of document
- Assistant Deputy Minister was aware of the history of concerns, issues and advocacy regarding the veterinary shortage
- Discussions continuing with the Minister of Advanced Education and UNBC to develop a veterinarian program
- Some work also being done with the College of New Caledonia regarding program development
- Provincial and Federal governments are working to remove barriers for a number of professionals including veterinarians

VERBAL REPORTS - Chair Parker (Cont'd)

- Discussed importance of food security
 - o Need to be a part of the solution and assist in finding a sustainable solution
 - o Continue to advocate.

Verbal Report Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2023-1-5 "That Director Parker's verbal report be received as presented."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Town of Smithers Zoning Amendment Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2023-1-5 "That staff inform the Town of Smithers that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no comments or concerns regarding Zoning Amendment Application No. 22-04."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORT

Rural Government Financial Plan Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2023-1-6 "That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Rural Government Financial Plan memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Regional Transit funding
 - o Not sustainable
 - o Provincially implemented initiative
 - Discuss funding with the province in the future
 - o Environmental Services operation of Transfer Stations and Landfills.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2023-1-7

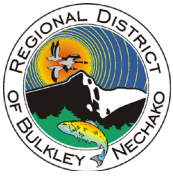
"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:44 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Clint Lambert, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cameron Kral, Planning Technician
Date: March 09, 2023
Subject: Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410290 and Notice of Work No, 2000276-202201

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410290 and Notice of Work No. 2000276-2022-01.

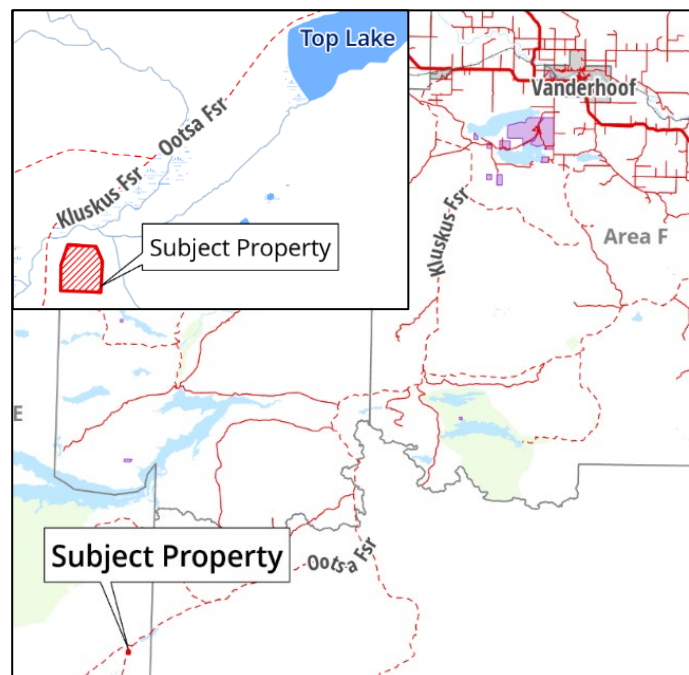
BACKGROUND

This combined application, by Omineca Aggregate Ltd., is for a Licence of Occupation and a [Notice of Work](#) to develop a sand and gravel quarry. The application area covers 13.76 ha of Crown Land near Top Lake, approximately 110 km southwest of the District of Vanderhoof. The site is accessed by Kluskus and Ootsa FSRs.

The quarry is proposed to be developed over multiple five-year phases and would involve the excavation, screening, crushing, and stockpiling of pit run gravel. This is a small scale regional aggregate operation with reserves of approximately 855,000 m³. At an annual production of 20,000m³ or 40,000 tonnes the pit has an operational lifespan of 42 years.

Reclamation is proposed to occur progressively near the end of operations. It will involve resloping the pits to a 2H:1V slope and regrading the rest of the site to a one per cent grade.

Topsoil and overburden will be redistributed, and the area will be re-vegetated with grass,



native trees and plants. Prior to excavation, topsoil and overburden will be stripped and stored for reclamation.

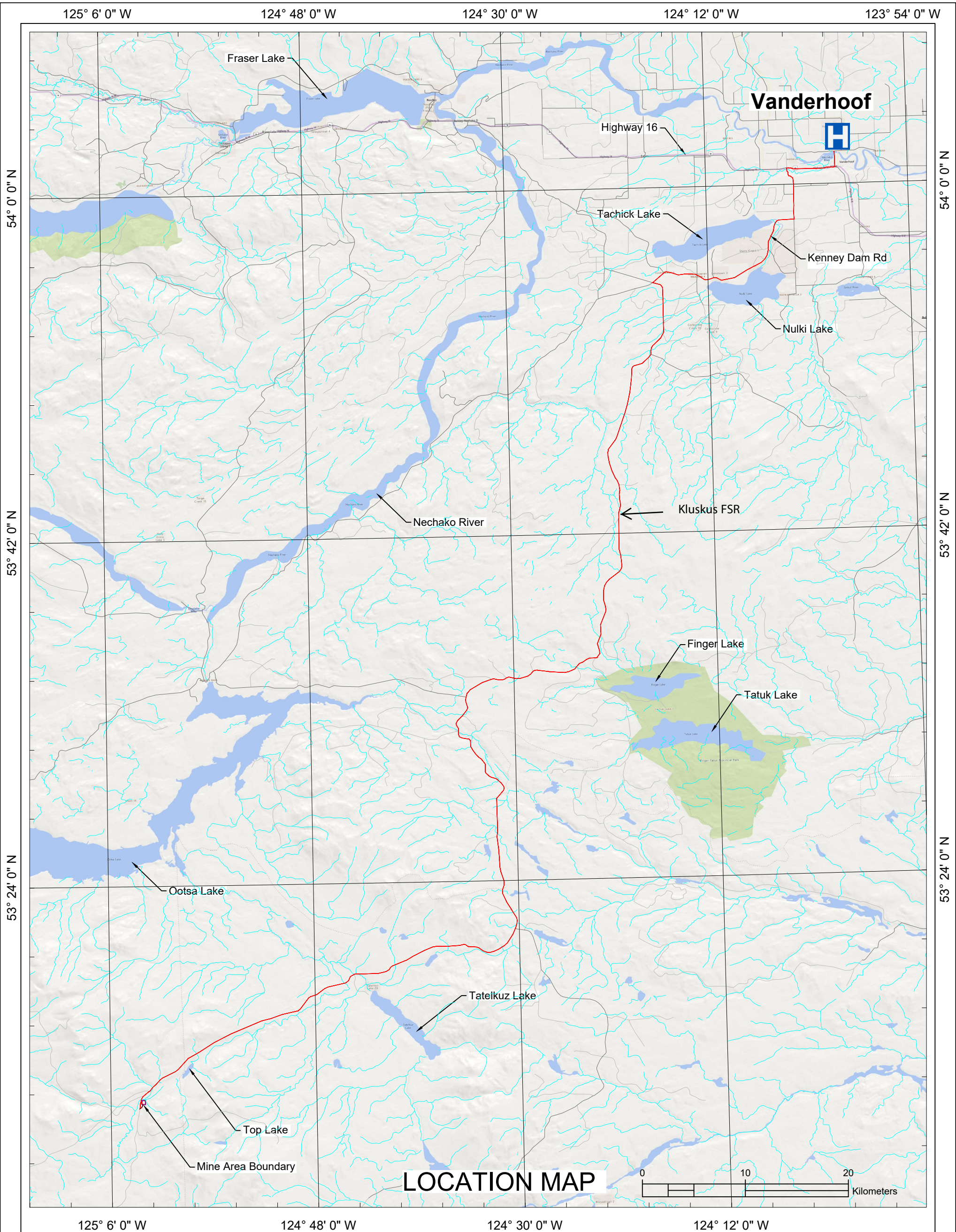
Mitigation measures for groundwater protection and to reduce noise, dust and visual impacts were provided by the applicant (see [Management Plan](#)). The nearest dwelling to the application area is 24 km.

ATTACHMENTS

- Comment Sheet
- Applicant Submitted Maps
- [Management Plan](#) (Link)
- [Notice of Work](#) (Link)

Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 7410290

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
Applicant:	Omineca Aggregate Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Forestry
Zoning:	N/A
OCP Designation:	N/A
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	N/A
If not, why?	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Kluskus FSR off Ootsa FSR
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	None



LOCATION MAP

General Notes

LEGEND

-  Mine Area Boundary
-  St John Hospital
-  Route to Hospital
-  Roads
-  Streams



HOLMES MINING CONSULTANTS

Firm Name and Address

Omineca Aggregate Ltd.
1005 Eastern Street
Prince George, B.C.
V2N 5R8

Project Name and Address

Artemis Pit

Project

Date
December 7, 2022
Scale
1:350,000

Sheet

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

SITE MAP

BCGS Mapsheet: 93F025

Lat/Long: 53° 12' 43.549" N 125° 03' 9.05" W



©2018 Airbus Defence and Space, Licensed by Planet Labs Geomatics Corp.

File Number: 7410290

Site # 1 of 1 - APPLICATION Area = 13.76 Ha.

TYPE: LICENCE PURPOSE: QUARRYING

SUBTYPE: LICENCE OF OCCUPATION SUBPURPOSE: SAND AND GRAVEL

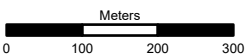
LOCATION: FAWNIE CREEK IMAGERY: SPOT 2018-2020

Produced by
Ministry of Forests
Northern Service Centre
FrontCounterBC
Date: January 20, 2023

Scale: 1:10,000 *

* if printed on 8.5X14 page

Projection: BC Albers
Datum: NAD 83



Legend

- Crown Land Application
- Primary Survey Parcel
- Subdivision
- Municipality
- Privately Owned Parcel
- Surveyed Rights of Way**
 - Surveyed Road R/W
 - Gas/Oil R/W District Lot
 - Power Transmission R/W
 - Gas/Oil R/W
 - Telecom R/W District Lot
 - Miscellaneous R/W
- Transportation Corridors**
 - Highway
 - Railway
 - Surveyed Road R/W
- Protected Areas**
 - Provincial Park
 - Protected Area
 - OIC Ecological Reserve
 - Recreation Area
- Base Mapping Features (20K)**
 - River or Stream
 - River or Stream - Dry
 - Lake
 - Reservoir - Definite
 - Glacier/icefield
 - Contour - 20m interval
- Transportation - Lines (20K)**
 - Airfield
 - Road
 - Forest Service Road
 - Road Permit
 - Trail
 - Rail Line

All measurements are approximate.

125° 4' 48" W

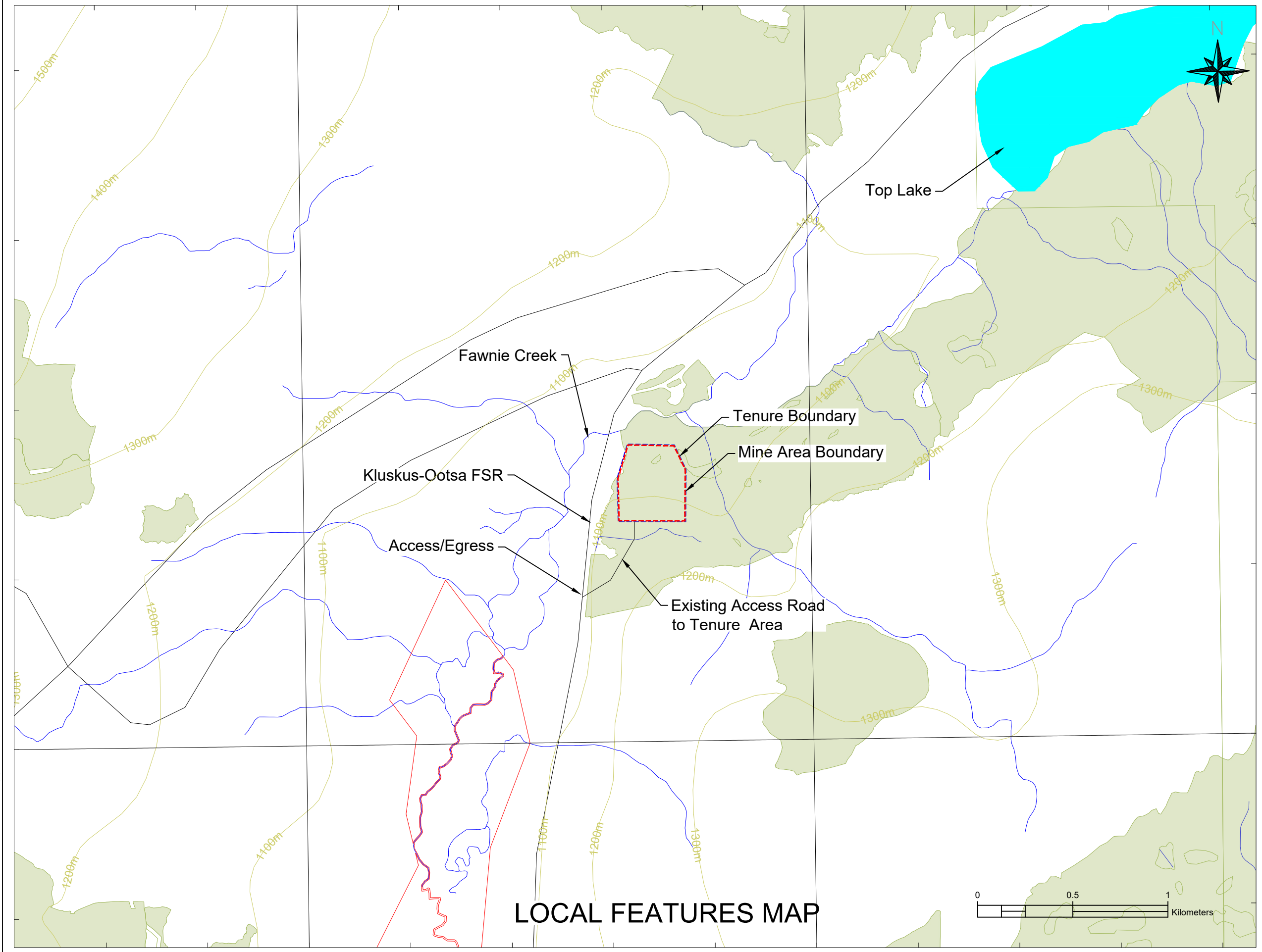
13 125° 2' 24" W

53° 12' 0" N

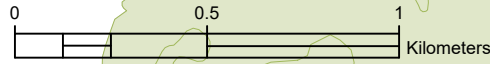
53° 12' 0" N

125° 4' 48" W

125° 2' 24" W



LOCAL FEATURES MAP



General Notes

LEGEND

- Contours
- Roads
- Streams
- Mine Area Boundary
- Property Lines
- Tenure Boundary
- ALR Boundary
- ROW
- Active Forest Cutblock



HOLMES MINING CONSULTANTS

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

Firm Name and Address
 Omineca Aggregate Ltd.
 1005 Eastern Street
 Prince George, B.C.
 V2N 5R8

Project Name and Address
 Artemis Pit

Project	Sheet
Date December 7, 2022	
Scale 1:20,000	

125° 3' 36" W

14

125° 3' 0" W

125° 3' 36" W

125° 3' 0" W



Fawnie Creek

Kluskus-Ootsa FSR

Topsoil and Overburden Area

Crushing and Screening Plant

Access to Kluskus-Ootsa FSR

MINING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Section A

Section B

Section C

Section D

Section E

Section F

1104m

1104m

General Notes

LEGEND

- Processing Stockpile Area - 2.21ha
- Current Mining Phase Area - 1.54ha
- Topsoil and Overburden Area - 0.43ha (13,000m³)
- Future Phases of Mining Area - 8.88ha
- Existing Access Roads
- Mine Footprint - 13.05ha
- Tenure Boundary-13.76ha
- Existing Disturbed Area - 20.32ha

— 2022 Contours (2m)
— Current Mining Phase Contours (1m)
— Creek

5 Year Mining Volume
100,000m³

Height NAD 83 (CSRS)
Orthometric
CGVD28 HTv2.0
from NRCan PPP

HOLMES MINING CONSULTANTS

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

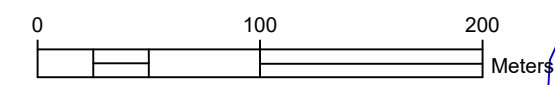
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Project Name and Address

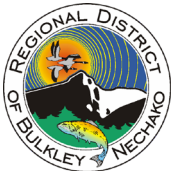
Artemis Pit

Project	Sheet
Date December 7, 2022	
Scale 1:3400	



53° 12' 36" N

53° 12' 36" N



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: March 9, 2023
Subject: **BC Rural Center “Keeping it Rural” Conference
June 1-2, 2023 in Kelowna**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

That the Committee recommend that the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the 2023 Keeping it Rural Conference June 1-2, 2023, in Kelowna, BC.

BACKGROUND

The BC Rural Center strives to organize and host a major international rural development conference every two year that profiles successful and innovative rural development initiatives. This year the conference, ***Realities and Opportunities in a Post-Project Economy***, is being held on June 1-2, 2023 in central Kelowna.

All the associated costs will come from each director’s rural legislative budget.

Registration and schedule information will be available at <https://bcruralcentre.org/keeping-rural-conference/> when it becomes available.

Event Sponsorship details are included in the attached letter.

ATTACHMENT

Event Sponsorship Package

Dear Chair & Directors

The Rural Centre is delighted to be planning another Keeping it Rural Conference. Our hiatus since 2019 is, of course, due to the COVID-19 pandemic which had a significant impact not only on rural communities but our ability to get together in person.

This year our conference, ***Realities and Opportunities in a Post-Project Economy***, is being held on June 1-2, 2023 in central Kelowna. As your destination, Kelowna allows for ease of travel for those needing to fly in and as well allows us to utilize a larger centre versus impacting a rural community that may be facing capacity and workforce issues.

Our work with rural, remote and First Nation stakeholders, including local and regional governments, non-profit and other community-based organizations, businesses, and citizens, has made us keenly aware of the priorities facing those in a non-urban environment. During our conference we will be addressing the issues facing our rural, remote and First Nation communities as well as celebrating success stories from around our province and beyond.

We are excited to be using community-partnered initiatives to support the development of “toolkits” for other communities. From rural housing, healthcare, forestry, food security we are building a model that meets the needs and priorities of individual communities.

We are contacting you to kindly request that the Bulkley Nechako Regional District join our sponsorship list to help us provide an exceptional experience and collaboration on rural topics that matter to the citizens.

Through a lot of volunteer work and generous donations, we are looking to keep our conference costs to a bare minimum. That means all of your sponsorship dollars go directly to support the Keeping it Rural Conference.

With great thanks!



Barry Janyk, Executive Director for our Board, Advisory Committee & staff

Sponsor Packages 2023

Sponsorship Levels:

Platinum Supporter:

Complimentary event pass, speaker or panelist opportunity, advertising, and marketing materials

Gold Supporter:

One complimentary event pass, advertising, and marketing materials

Silver Supporter:

Discounted event pass, advertising, and marketing materials

Bronze Supporter:

Advertising and marketing materials

Sponsorship Fees:

Platinum Supporter - \$2500

Gold Supporter - \$1500

Silver Supporter - \$750

Bronze Supporter - \$500

Open Supporter - any amount less than \$500

* Additional options to support the conference are available - please contact us to learn more.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: March 9, 2023
Subject: **Northwest Trade Expo, May 5-6 in Smithers**

RECOMMENDATION:**(all/directors/majority)**

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve spending \$550 from Rural Government for the rental of an RDBN booth at the Northwest Trade Expo.

BACKGROUND

The Northwest Trade Expo, hosted by the Smithers and District Chamber of Commerce, is being held at the Smithers Arena on May 5 and 6, 2023.

The tradeshow provides an opportunity to meet with community members face-to-face and discuss priorities and plans for the area.

Director Stoltenberg would like to have an RDBN booth at the Tradeshow.

The cost for an indoor tradeshow booth for Friday and Saturday is \$550.