

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Clint Lambert

Directors Judy Greenaway  
Shirley Moon  
Chris Newell – via Zoom  
Mark Parker  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner – left at 11:32 a.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – via Zoom  
Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof  
Charlie Rensby, Village of Burns Lake  
Frank Wray, Town of Smithers

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Lambert called the meeting to order at 11:22 p.m.

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

**RDC.2023-3-1** “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for April 6, 2023 be approved.”

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

**MINUTES**

**Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -March 9, 2023** Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

**RDC.2023-3-2** “That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of March 9, 2023 be approved.”

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

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Land Referral

Crown Land Application  
Referral No. 7410295  
Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof  
Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2023-3-3

"That the comment sheet be amended to clarify the applicant's intent regarding burning timber or other materials and consideration for dust mitigation measures; and further, that the comment sheet as amended be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410295."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Clarifying
  - o Burning of timber
  - o Traffic and road dust mitigation measures
- First Nations consultation
- Agricultural Land Commission Process
- Temporary Use Permit Process.

## RURAL REPORT

Rural Bursary Policy  
Discussion

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RDC.2023-3-4

"That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Rural Bursary Policy Discussion memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Targeting areas where there is recruitment and retention challenges
- Utilizing the school's Scholarship/Bursary Committees to distribute the scholarship/bursary to graduating students
- Taxing rural government
  - o Individual Electoral Areas continue with Grant in Aid
  - o All rural areas – rural government
  - o Government to government transfer
  - o Grant in lieu of taxes for Electoral Areas D and E
- Areas A and G having two Secondary Schools
- Continuing the current practice of grant in aid.
- Drafting a policy to bring back for Board consideration.

**RURAL REPORT (CONT'D)**

Rural Bursary Policy  
Discussion

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Moon

RDC.2023-3-5

"That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to draft a Rural Bursary Policy and budget options to be brought forward for the Committee's consideration."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

BC Rural Centre's "Keeping  
it Rural" Conference in  
Kelowna - June 1-2, 2023

Director Moon brought forward attending the BC Rural Centre's "Keeping it Rural" Conference in Kelowna on June 1-2, 2023.

Virtual UBCM Old Growth  
Local Government Session  
April 13, 2023

Director Greenaway brought forward attending and registration for the virtual UBCM Old Growth Local Government Session on April 13, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2023-3-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:51 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Clint Lambert, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
Corporate Services