

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 4, 2023

PRESENT: Acting Chair Mark Parker

 Directors Gladys Atrill
 Leroy Dekens
 Martin Elphee
 Judy Greenaway
 Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:12 a.m.
 Linda McGuire
 Shirley Moon
 Kevin Moutray
 Chris Newell
 Michael Riis-Christianson
 Stoney Stoltenberg
 Henry Wiebe

 Director Shane Brienen, District of Houston
 Absent

 Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
 Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
 John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
 Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:40 a.m.
 Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

 Others Val Anderson, Deputy Corporate Officer, Village of Burns Lake – via
 Zoom – left at 10:45 a.m.
 Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District,
 Ministry of Forests – left at 10:45 a.m.
 Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest
 Landscape Planning, Ministry of Forests – left at 10:45 a.m.
 Gord Pratt, Senior Manager, Forest Enhancement Society of BC – via
 Zoom – arrived at 10:10 a.m.
 Peter Tweedle, General Manager, Babine Lake Community Forest and
 Tyhee Forestry Consultants via Zoom – arrived at 10:14 a.m.
 Kristy Bjarnason, Councillor, Village of Burns Lake – left at 10:45 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER Acting Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Storey

NRC.2023-1-1

"That the Natural Resources Committee Agenda for May 4, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Natural Resources
Committee Meeting Minutes
-September 8, 2022

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Elphee

NRC.2023-1-2

"That the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS-Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District RE: Lakes Resiliency Project Current Condition Report

Acting Chair Parker welcomed Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District, Ministry of Forests.

Mses. Howard-Stratton and Eagles provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Lake Resiliency Project

- Purpose
 - o To Understand
- What is a current condition report?
- Why do a current condition report?
- List of resource values currently managed for under legislation, policy, or agreements
- Example from report
 - o current condition landbase (context)
 - o current condition of forest ages across landbase
 - o soils
 - o current condition – from SSAF (Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum) data
- How current condition information will be used – Next Steps
- Demo of Current Condition Report Questionnaire
 - o Lakes Resiliency Project website.

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS-Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District RE: Lakes Resiliency Project Current Condition Report (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Grim picture for forest dependent communities
- Utilizing normative language important for all community members
- Biodiversity targets written in 1995
 - o Detailed review of 1995 guidebook has not been completed
 - o Biodiversity groups capture new information as it becomes available
 - o Forest Landscape Plan
 - 10-year plans
 - Revisited every 5 years to determine if meeting objectives
- Acting Chair Parker's fly-over of the 2018 Shovel Lake and Binta Lake wildfire areas
 - o Protecting new growth stands
- Ministry of Forests assessment of the likely increase in fires, climate change and risk management of healthy stands
 - o Reviewing future models with increased fires and management of those potential risks
- Lakes Resiliency Pilot Project as a guide for potential future projects
 - o Lessons learned
 - A number of different working tables
 - Capacity challenges for groups at the working tables
 - Future improvements.
- Report doesn't include potential positives from climate change and higher CO₂ levels
 - o Potential for faster growth of stands
 - o Less snow damage/better growth
 - o Potential benefits
 - o Potential shifts in biodiversity zones and species of trees
 - o Requires science to back up information
- Benefit of Forest Service Roads to fight wildfires
 - o Being discussed at the Planning Table
 - o FSR's provide benefits for agriculture and cattle grazing – provides fire suppression
- Final Report timeline for comment and feedback
- Independently filling out survey.

Acting Chair Parker thanked Mses. Howard-Stratton and Eagles for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

FOREST ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY OF BC – Gord Pratt, Senior Manager and Peter Tweedle, General Manager, Babine Lake Community Forest and Tyhee Forestry Consultants RE: Granisle Wildfire Risk Reduction Project and 2023 Funding Programs – via Zoom

Acting Chair Parker welcomed Gord Pratt, Senior Manager, Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Peter Tweedle, General Manager, Babine Lake Community Forest and Tyhee Forestry Consultants.

Mr. Pratt and Mr. Tweedle provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC

- Funded Projects since 2016
- FESBC Approved Projects Across the Bulkley-Nechako
- Recent Approvals
 - o 2 wildfire risk reduction projects approved summer 2022
- Wildfire Risk Reduction & Fibre Utilization at Granisle
 - o Treatment Phases
 - o Fibre Utilized by Pinnacle
 - o Resulting in only small piles to burn
- Current Funding Opportunities
 - o \$50 Million to be allocated over 2 years.

The following was discussed:

- Granisle project included the students at the Babine Elementary Secondary school and taught the students about planting seedlings
 - o Approximately 1500 seedlings were planted
- Project was very beneficial for the community and is used as an example for other communities
- Funding to utilize burnt fibre
 - o FESBC worked with Chinook Community Forest and Cheslatta Carrier Nation on projects on the Southside of Francois Lake to utilize burnt fibre from past wildfire events
- Director Atrill requested a similar presentation for the Town of Smithers Council
 - o Granisle Project showcased the following:
 - Utilization of fibre
 - minimal burning of fibre
- Fort St. James Community Forest
 - o Harvested burnt fibre from the 2018 Shovel Lake wildfire
 - o Reforested area with fir and pine stands.

Acting Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Pratt and Tweedle for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

NRC.2023-1-3

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:12 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Acting Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services