

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, January 11, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert – via Zoom
Linda McGuire – via Zoom
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell – arrived at 10:41 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Alternate Director Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom

Director Absent Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
– arrived at 12:47 p.m., left at 1:00 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director Protective Services
– arrived at 12:47 p.m.
Trevor Kier, RDBN Recovery Manager Contractor – arrived at
12:59 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 12:47 p.m.,
left at 1:15 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other Anthony Giannotti, RPF, Director, Pricing and Tenures – North
Area, Ministry of Forests – via Zoom – left at 11:20 a.m.
Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina Natural Resource
District, Ministry of Forests – via Zoom – left at 11:20 a.m.
Tara Dunphy, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Skeena Region,
Ministry of Forests – arrived at 10:37 a.m., left at 12:05 p.m.
Robyn (Koralann) Phair, Forestry Engagement Planning
Coordinator, Lake Babine Nation – arrived at 10:37 a.m., left
at 12:05 p.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News – arrived at 10:33 a.m., left at 12:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2024-1-1 “That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 11, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes – November 9, 2023 Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2024-1-2 “That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS – Via Zoom – Anthony Giannotti, RPF, Director, Pricing and Tenures – North Area and Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District – Re: Prince George, Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Area Apportionment

Chair Parker welcomed Anthony Giannotti, RPF, Director, Pricing and Tenures – North Area and Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests.

Mr. Giannotti and Mr. Marincak provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Prince George, Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Area (TSA)

- Prince George TSA (PG TSA)
 - o Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) and Relative Harvest Billing System (HBS) Scaled Volume per year
 - 2012-2022
 - The current harvested volume is the same as the AAC
 - o Current Apportionment
- Lakes TSA
 - o AAC and Relative HBS Scaled Volume per year
 - 1996-2022
 - o Current Apportionment
 - o Guidance from Minister on implementing apportionment

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS – Via Zoom – Anthony Giannotti, RPF, Director, Pricing and Tenures – North Area and Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District – Re: Prince George, Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Area Apportionment (CONT'D)

- Morice TSA
 - o AAC and Relative HBS Scaled Volume per year
 - o Current Apportionment
 - o The Current harvested volume is significantly higher than the AAC.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Community Forest 2023 Apportionment – 0
 - o Rationale
 - Government has heard the importance of Community Forests and ability to partner with First Nations and the unique role Community Forests have taken
 - Government in the PG and Lakes TSA has taken a greater opportunity to have First Nations participate in the forest economy
 - Historically 2004-2006 increase Community Forest and not First Nations which was a more short-term non replaceable volume targeting MPB
 - Recognize First Nations establishment of business relationships with licensees and logging contractors
 - o Recent decision
 - Across the interior addressing the effects of the Mountain Pine Beetle and reductions of the AAC
 - In some communities Community Forests have really felt impact of the AAC reduction
 - As AAC goes through step down process will see a reduction
- Concerns regarding the impacts of the 2018 and 2023 Wildfires
 - o Does Forestry have an idea of the impacts and will there be a review?
 - Chief Forester is preparing to present information to the public
 - Information for the 2018 Wildfires is available on the website
 - 2023 Wildfire information has not yet been updated on the website
 - o Priority of the Premier and Minister of Forests
 - o Early access to data files provides preliminary estimates of fibre burnt
 - Working to refine information
 - No timeline currently to release information
 - o Chief Forester understands there is a want to recover salvage burnt timber
 - Partition decisions may need to be considered
 - o Burns Lake Area is processing burnt timber
 - Fraser Lake Sawmill received cutting permits prior to Christmas 2023
 - Canfor is planning salvage harvesting early 2024
 - Working on rehabilitation and recovery

- Better situated in comparison to the after actions of the 2018 Wildfires
- Proactive in assisting communities

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS – Via Zoom – Anthony Giannotti, RPF, Director, Pricing and Tenures – North Area and Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District – Re: Prince George, Lakes and Morice Timber Supply Area Apportionment (CONT'D)

- Shelf life of burnt timber is estimated between 1- 5 years
 - Mr. Marincak will provide outstanding volumes from 2018
- Apportionment difference between the Morice TSA and Lakes TSA
 - Morice TSA last completed in 2017
 - Predated the recent works regarding reconciliation
 - Significant volume partnership in BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and First Nations volume
 - Volume shift to First Nations
- A healthy forest requires a diverse forest in various stages of life
 - What are the current concerns for the overall health of the forest?
 - Lakes Resiliency Project
 - Balances the needs of the land base and economic needs of the area
 - Morice TSA review
 - Skeena Sustainability Forum
 - Province decision and focus on Forest Landscape Plans
 - Reallocates and balances the objectives and collaboration with First Nations
 - Different approach than in the past
- Changing landscapes to assist with wildfire mitigation
 - Wildfire Risk Reduction Program
 - Nadina District recruitment of an additional 6-7 people to proactively conduct risk reduction
- Expanding rehabilitation and recovery works from 2018
- For Category II Timber Sales to allow for small scale salvaging of burnt timber
 - Reach out to Kevin Partington, Resource Technologists, Field Operations - Nadina or Mike Watson, Woodlands Manager, BC Timber Sales – Babine, Ministry of Forests for additional information
- Consultation when small scale harvesting takes place in close proximity to private landowner
 - Contact local Ministry of Forest office to voice concerns
- Fraser Lake thinning and spacing project near the Fraser Lake Airport
 - Funding
 - Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. potential option
 - Liaison with Mr. Marincak.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Giannotti and Marincak for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS and LAKE BABINE NATION– Tara Dunphy, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests and Robyn (Koralann) Phair, Forestry Engagement Planning Coordinator, Lake Babine Nation Re: Morice TSA Pilot Project and Lakes TSA Pilot Project Update

Chair Parker Welcomed Tara Dunphy, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests and Robyn (Koralann) Phair, Forestry Engagement Planning Coordinator, Lake Babine Nation.

Ms. Dunphy and Ms. Phair provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Forest Landscape Planning in the Skeena Region

- Outline
 - o Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) – what is it?
 - o Planning in the Bulkley and Morice Timber Supply Area
 - o Planning in the Lakes TSA
 - o Process, Review and other initiatives
- Introducing Forest Landscape Planning
- Transition from Forest Stewardship Plan's (FSP's) to FLP's
- 5 FLP Objectives
- Weaving Indigenous Knowledge with Western Science
- Embracing Flexibility
- Bulkley & Morice Landscape Planning Process
 - o Two years of Scoping to this point – Started with Bulkley & Morice Timber Supply Reviews (TSRs)
 - o Integration Points/Sharing Resources
 - o Potential Planning Table Structure
 - First Nations Steering Committee
 - Stakeholder Review and Input Group
 - Technical Decision Making
 - o 6-month Draft Timeline
- Stated goals of the Lakes Resiliency Project
- Lakes Resiliency Project – Bulkley/Morice Forest Landscape Planning
 - o Key Decision Points
 - o Work Plan
 - o Biodiversity Legal Orders
 - o Wildlife
 - o Visuals
 - o Range
 - o Aquatics
 - o Wildfire.

Director Newell requested information concerning local consultation for the Morice TSA Planning. Ms. Dunphy mentioned the possibility of hosting Town Hall meeting(s) or participating in the Stakeholder Review and Input Group meeting(s). Ms. Dunphy will connect with Director Newell to discuss engagement.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Dunphy and Ms. Phair for attending the meeting.

Break for Lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

REPORTS

Canada Community-Building Fund BC Compliance Recommendations

The following discussion took place:

- Having funds in reserve to support unanticipated projects
 - o UBCM doesn't impose restrictions on funding spent annually – the Board has discretion on funds spent annually
- Projects may take time to move forward and requires funds be saved overtime in order to support certain projects
- Year to Date Funds Available
- Opening Balance 2023
- Funds Committed
 - o Resolution from the Board to a committed project
- Infrastructure Canada in the process of negotiating a new Canada Community – Building Fund BC with UBCM (Union of B.C. Municipalities)
 - o Current contract expiring
 - Includes populations of IRs
 - New contract may not include IRs
 - o Funds remaining may be subject to the new contract once approved
- Unspent Canada Community Building Fund BC monies
 - o Budget liability
 - o Planning for the use of funds for projects is not identified in the budget
- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance and Canada Community Building Fund BC primarily for infrastructure.

2024 Completed Assessment and Requisition Impacts Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2024-1-4 “That staff bring back a budget that captures the non-market changes from the 2024 Completed Assessment and that, in addition, provides an inflation allowance of 3.0%.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the 2024 Completed Assessment and Requisition Impacts. He noted the increase in new construction in 2023 and the completion of the pipeline are key considerations.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Weighted assessments
- Taxation options were discussed in Table 1, 2, 3A, 3B and 3C
- Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural), Smithers and Telkwa decrease in assessments
- Large market change in assessment for Granisle
- Average taxpayer
 - Includes a combination of residential, commercial, business and utilities classifications
 - Commercial tax rate payers have seen the largest increase in assessment
- Pipeline revenue
 - Maintain value over a 50 year period
- Statistics Canada average annual projected inflation rate for 2023
 - Stats Canada will release the information mid-January, 2024
 - Table 3A – 2024 Requisition including 2% increase
- Staff will provide a report of pipeline assessment changes
- Future planning in considering 2024 tax rate.

Financial Statements from Grant Receiving Societies

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

C.W.2024-1-5

“That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Financial Statements from Grant Receiving Societies.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2024-1-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:37 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services