

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 11, 2024

PRESENT: Acting Chair Mark Parker

 Directors Judy Greenaway
 Clint Lambert - via Zoom
 Shirley Moon
 Chris Newell
 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 – left at
 2:27 p.m.
 John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
 Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 1:47
 p.m.
 Trevor Kier, RDBN Recovery Manager Contractor – left at 1:47 p.m.
 Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 1:52 p.m., returned at
 2:27 p.m.
 Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

 Other Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER Acting Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

AGENDA & Moved by Director Stoltenberg
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2024-1-1 “That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for January 11, 2024
be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt
with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -November 9, 2023 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2024-1-2 "That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of November 9, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff Introduction

Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services introduced Trevor Kier, RDBN Recovery Manager Contractor.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Referrals

Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410321 Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RDC.2024-1-3 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral No. 7410321 as amended to include the following:
Other Comments: Based on information provided, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako does not support the application."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RURAL REPORT

Grant in Aid Policy (GIA) Review

The following was discussed:

- Opportunity for the Board to clarify its direction
- Include in draft updated Grant in Aid (GIA) Policy
 - o 1) Funding for agencies that are publicly funded, such as education and healthcare institutions
 - Potentially include the statement: Electoral Areas' Grant-in-Aid is not intended to replace any financial responsibilities of senior levels of government or other government agencies or affiliates
 - Operational maintenance work be ineligible
 - Not fund organizations that generate funds through taxation
 - o Includes School Districts and Northern Health
 - Importance of providing funding for organizations such as Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society

RURAL REPORT (CONT'D)

- Continue to have the ability to provide grant in aid to school groups such as basketball, volleyball, science teams etc.
- Grant options for a bus stop shelter at Topley
 - Staff will review and provide information to Director Newell
- RDBN Grant in Aid Policy Section 4 a) and b)
 - Provides the Regional District flexibility to impose additional requirements or reduce or modify requirements
- Application process and reporting phase
 - Requiring financial information during the application process
 - Enforcing reporting and ensuring accountability
 - RDBN Grant in Aid Policy Section 3 b)
 - Including in draft updated GIA Policy: Failure to provide reporting will nullify the applicant from applying for future granting until reporting is received
 - Letters to organizations documenting the grant approval also include information concerning reporting
 - Historical reporting discussions
 - Simplified reporting
 - Staff to forward reports, cards, photos, receipts, etc. to Electoral Area Directors
 - Staff will work with organizations to request reports for grants exceeding \$1,000 as outlined in the Policy
- Including 2) and 3) outlined in the Grant in Aid Policy Review memorandum in future updated Grant in Aid Policy
 - 2) Provision of funds for non-profit organization annual operational or core funding, as well as wages
 - 3) Expectations around recognition of awarded grants
 - Importance of recognition
 - Provincial and Federal Government Grant Funding opportunities include clauses that any communication must recognize the funding agency
- Partnering with local Community Foundations to provide funding opportunities
- Staff will bring forward a draft Grant in Aid Policy update.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Grant in Aid Under \$2,500
Approval Update

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2024-1-4

"That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Grant in Aid Under \$2,500 Approval Update memorandum as amended to include the Nechako Senior Citizens Society grant in aid in Electoral Area F rather than Electoral Area C requests."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Cluculz Lake Residents
Dog Concerns/Rural
Dog Control Director Moon brought forward Cluculz Lake residents dog concerns. Staff will bring forward a report at a future meeting regarding dog and animal control in the Regional District.

Unightly Premises Concerns Director Greenaway spoke of concerns regarding an unsightly premises in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural). Staff will follow up.

Mail in Ballots Director Moon requested staff bring forward information regarding mail in ballots. Staff have included it in the 2024 Work Plan and will bring forward a report for consideration and discussion at a future meeting.

Emergency & Disaster
Management Act (EDMA) Letter Director Lambert requested an update regarding the RDBN Letter regarding the *Emergency & Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* the Board authorized at its December 14, 2023 Board Meeting. Staff will bring forward the letter and comments for Board consideration at the January 25, 2024 Board Meeting.

Director Lambert indicated the Chinook Emergency Response Society has provided a press release in regard to its concerns. Chair Parker mentioned he spoke with the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in December regarding the *Act* and he will follow-up with Director Lambert.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2024-1-5 "That the meeting be adjourned at 2:31 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Acting Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director
of Corporate Services