

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, November 7, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert – returned from lunch at 12:50 p.m.
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell - arrived at 10:05 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom –left at 10:41 a.m.
Henry Wiebe

Director Absent Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa

Alternate Director Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – left at 1:48 p.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 10:20 a.m.
Sarah Brand, Regional Recycling Coordinator – left at 1:48 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – via Zoom – arrived in-person at 10:15 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:30 a.m.
Cole Minger, Environmental Services Operations Supervisor – arrived at 10:20 a.m. – left at 1:48 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services – via Zoom
Scott Zayac, Manager of Protective Services – arrived at 10:12 a.m., left at 11:15 a.m., returned at 1:45 p.m.

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

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2024-3-1

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 7, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – February 8, 2024

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2024-3-2

"That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF INTRODUCTION

Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor introduced Sara Brand, Regional Recycling Coordinator.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

LNG Project Status Update

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2024-3-3

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's LNG Project Status update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Partner Financial Statements

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2024-3-4

"That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Partner Financial Statements memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Growing Opportunities
Newsletter – Issue 22

Moved by Director McGurie
Seconded by Director Moutray

C.W.2024-3-5

"That the Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's Growing Opportunities Newsletter – Issue 22 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Nechako View Senior Citizens Housing Society Studying Net Zero design for 18 Units of Affordable Housing in Bulkley-Nechako, BC Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2024-3-6

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities regrading Nechako View Senior Citizens Housing Society Studying Net Zero design for 18 Units of Affordable Housing in Bulkley-Nechako, BC.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Agriculture and Food – 2024 UBCM Follow-up Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2024-3-7

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food regarding 2024 UBCM Follow-up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy – 2024 UBCM Follow-up Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Elphee

C.W.2024-3-8

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding 2024 UBCM Follow-up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness– 2024 UBCM Follow-up Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2024-3-9

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regarding 2024 UBCM Follow-up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Emergency
Management and Climate
Readiness- 2024 UBCM Joint
Meeting Follow-up

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2024-3-10

“That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regarding 2024 UBCM Joint Meeting Follow-up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Wildfire mitigation
 - Minimal funding provided by the Province for rural areas
 - Crown land designations and First Nations interest in rural areas
 - Utilizing other grant funding opportunities
 - Potential funding through the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.
- Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Programs Information - Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training
- Advocating for additional funding for the RDBN to conduct wildfire mitigation works
- Advocating for funding for region-wide thinning and spacing wildfire mitigation programs through the Ministry of Forests
 - Village of Fraser Lake’s Thinning and Spacing Project
 - Stellat’en First Nations trained individuals that can conduct works
 - Other synergies
 - Shavings for the agriculture sector
 - Job creation to offset job loss from mill closures
- Consultants are working on an RDBN Wildfire Mitigation Plan
 - Staff will reach out to inquire about:
 - Ministry of Forests funding for wildfire thinning and spacing projects
 - Wildfire mitigation in rural areas in relation to crown land
- Inviting the Minister of Forests to attend a meeting once the newly elected provincial government is appointed.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Northern Development Initiative Trust – Business Façade Improvement Program Application Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

C.W.2024-3-11 “That the Committee recommend that the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) for a grant of up to \$10,000 for the Business Façade Improvement Program from the Prince George and Northwest Regional Accounts.

That the Board agrees to enter into a contract with NDIT, should the funding be approved, and provide overall grant management for the project.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATION

Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer/Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services/John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – Environmental Services Department Operations Review (Timeline)

CAO Helgesen provided a brief overview of the Environmental Services Department Operations Review.

Staff provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Environmental Services Department Operations Review (Timeline)

- Solid Waste Facility Operations
- Recycling and Diversion
- Hauling and Transport
- Management and Environmental and Safety Compliance
- Facility Update
 - Area A includes Smithers/Telkwa and Area (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Transfer Station and Recycling Depot
 - Area B includes Burns Lake and Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Transfer Station and Recycling Depot
 - Area C includes Fort St James and Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Transfer Station and Recycling Depot
 - Area D includes Fraser Lake and Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Transfer Station and Recycling Depot
 - Area E includes Southside and Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Transfer Station and Recycling Depot
 - Area F includes Vanderhoof and Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Transfer Station and Recycling Depot
 - Area G includes both Houston as well as Granisle and Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) Transfer Stations and Recycling Depots

PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

- Decision Making Factors
 - Federal, Provincial and Local
 - Legislation, Regulations, and Policies that impact Solid Waste Management (SWMP)
 - Triggers for changes to operations
 - Facility Timeline
- Service Level and Taxation Review
- Personnel
 - Conditions Leading to FTE Increases
- Capital Expenses
- Compliance Components
- Service Costs
- Coming Up Next.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Changes to regulations and guidelines are becoming more stringent
- Safety standards have transitioned over time
- Metric Tonnes of garbage collected in relation to recycling
 - Staff will summarize information and present it to the Board in the future
 - Metric Tonnes from industrial and construction sectors
- Granisle Transfer Station recycling expansion
 - Will be a priority of the newly hired Regional Recycling Coordinator
- Triggers for changes to operations
- Hours of operations and maintaining reasonable service levels with costs
 - Standardized hours of operations across all RDBN facilities
 - Major service change is at the direction of the Board
 - Public engagement/surveys if changes are considered
 - Unforeseen results of service level changes
 - Illegal dumping
 - Service level analysis of activity at facilities
- Introducing and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Environmental Services
- Siting a new landfill under current legislation and regulations
 - Reopening old landfills
 - Landfills are monitored in perpetuity
- In the past landfills were manned by contractors
 - Staffing and costs to move toward in-house hauling and landfill operation
 - Operational efficiencies and ensuring ministerial regulations are being followed
- Environmental Services full-time, part-time and casual employees
- Capital Expenses
 - Investments in equipment to facilitate in-house delivery of services
 - Need for more built-in redundancy
 - Field Assistants conduct minor maintenance/repairs and larger repairs are completed by external parties
- Asset management moving forward

PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

- Landfill and Transfer Station Closure Liability
- Pipeline taxation and Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) agreement provides the ability to plan for the future
- Grinding Wood Project
 - o Environmental Services conducted a trial to grind wood waste
 - Cost prohibitive
 - Nechako Lumber can take brush piles for Cogeneration Plant
- Wood Burning Program
 - o Unable to open burn due to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Operational Certificate
 - o Utilize Air Curtain Burner
 - o Regulation allowance for the public to open burn vs. the Regional District
 - Board advocacy regarding the inconsistency regarding the authorization to burn brush piles at RDBN Solid Waste Facilities vs. the public's ability to burn brush piles
- Landfill Cover
- Leachate Management
 - o Knockholt Landfill
 - o Clearview Landfill
 - Natural attenuation site
 - Permeability of the soil is a challenge
 - Designing a leachate and aeration system utilizing grant funding.

Break for lunch at 11:57 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

- Service Costs
 - o 2024 Budget Summary
 - Revenue, Expenses and Taxes
 - Current grant funding vs. 2007
 - Grants and transfers
 - Administration expenses
 - Internal staffing, vehicle, etc.
 - Overhead expenses
 - o Past Environmental Services Budget
 - Borrowing and reserve withdrawal

PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

- Taxes
 - 2024 Taxes
 - Household taxation for Environmental Services
 - Taxation scenarios
 - Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake and Smithers Municipal Taxation
 - Taxation scenarios for rural areas
 - Province doesn't release average house values for rural areas
 - Staff will bring forward scenarios for rural areas utilizing municipal house prices
 - Equitable taxation for service
 - Taxation in other jurisdictions
 - Industrial taxation and affect throughout the entire region
 - Complexity of raising revenue
 - Municipal services support municipal and rural residents
 - Rural areas supporting municipal residents
 - Achieving a good standard of living for everyone in the region
 - Loss of industry taxation considerations
 - Indian Reserves and taxation
 - Municipal agreements with First Nation communities for garbage pickup
- Future discussion regarding user pay
- Comparing the RDBN to other jurisdictions regarding cost per tonne for contractors to conduct works
 - Staff to potentially conduct a jurisdictional review
- 2025 Budget
 - Future budget discussions
 - Budget discussions at the November 21st discussions
 - Additional time to be scheduled if required.

NEW BUSINESS

Air Quality in the Region

Director Riis-Christianson brought forward the inconsistencies regarding burning permits and allowances for brush pile burning and the impacts to air quality. He spoke of inviting involved agencies and organizations in early 2025 to discuss the topic.

INCAMERA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2024.3-12

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour Relations.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2024-3-13

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:50 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services