



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

**RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
(Committee of the Whole)
Agenda**

Thursday, April 14, 2016

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>Agenda – April 14, 2016</u>	Adopt
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-5	Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2016	Receive
	<u>DELEGATION</u>	
	<u>MINISTRY OF FORESTS LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS</u> Terry Sullivan, Director of Major Projects RE: Update re: Lake Babine Nation Woodland Tenures	
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
6	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Kluskus Connector Road	Receive
7-8	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Public Input Invited on Prince George Timber Supply Area – Comments Accepted until May 24, 2016	Receive
9-10	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - British Columbia Government Acting on Spruce Beetle	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee of the Whole)**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

PRESENT: Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Shane Brienen, District of Houston
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – arrived at 9:46 a.m.

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Daniella Oake, Planning Forester, Babine Forest Products

CALL TO ORDER Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

F.C.2016-3-1 “That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of March 10, 2016 be adopted.”

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

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Fisher

F.C.2016-3-2 “That the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting.”

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

Forestry Committee Meeting
 Minutes – February 11, 2016

Moved by Director Strimbold
 Seconded by Director Miller

F.C.2016-3-3

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2016 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Proposed 9 Axle Log Truck

Chair MacDougall reported that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has issued permits for 9 Axle Log Trucks on Highway 27 and the North Road a secondary road north of Fort St. James.

Director Miller spoke with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MoFLNRO) regarding engagement during the investigation process in regard to the proposed 9 axle log truck configuration. He noted that there did not appear to be consultation. There has been numerous configuration changes in regard to log haul trailers in the past years. Some changes have impacted the ability for the trucks to maneuver around and through corners on Forest Service Roads.

Staff will contact Rob Phillips, Engineering Officer, Authorizations, Nadina, MoFLNRO, in regard to the impact of 9 axle log trucks on Forest Service Roads.

Director Lindstrom spoke of concerns in regard to the ability of the truck tractor being capable of pulling the loaded 9 axle log truck. Concerns were also brought forward in regard to the possible damage caused to the road systems and the cost to tax payers to repair the roads. Director Greenaway noted that Highway 27 was paved in the summer of 2015 and the edges of the road are already breaking away.

Log truck load sizes pre-mountain pine beetle were smaller due to the weight of green wood. As the mountain pine beetle wood become the focus, load sizes increased in volume to maintain the same weight on a load. Due to the impacts of the midterm timber supply and the removal of the mountain pine beetle wood there will be a return to pre-mountain pine beetle weights but with the increase to a 9 axle log truck the volume will not decrease. Concerns were discussed regarding the consequences of utilizing a 9 axle log truck.

Chair MacDougall intends to contact Jason Fisher, Director, Forest Sector Strategies, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, MoFLNRO.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Bachrach
 Seconded by Director Petersen

F.C.2016-3-4

"That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

-Wildfire Symposium Follow Up – February 29, 2016;
 - BC Government News – B.C. Increases Investments in Forest Stewardship."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Wildfire Symposium Follow Up – February 29, 2016

Director Miller provided an overview of the Wildfire Symposium Follow Up on February 29, 2016. He noted that there was very good discussion and that there is a commitment from all the stakeholders to move forward. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Wildfire Management Branch indicated budget considerations have been made to continue to move forward.

Discussion took place regarding the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and possible funding opportunities. Further information is required in regard to the society and a future meeting will be scheduled once information is obtained in regard to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. A tentative meeting date has been scheduled for April 5, 2016.

Director Miller noted that there is a commitment from each organization to have one person be part of the working group at a staff level and that either Chair MacDougall or himself will provide a political connection.

BC Government News – B.C. Increases Investments in Forest Stewardship

Director Petersen noted that the FireSmart program for home owners is very beneficial but mentioned that many rural residents do not have the equipment or resources to fire smart their property.

Director Miller noted that there have been gaps identified in regard to rural residents accessing/utilizing equipment and or contractor to complete fire smart work.

Discussion took place regarding the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako including on its Business Directory web page a contractors list that can complete fire smart work for rural home owners.

Discussion took place regarding funding for private land hazard reduction. Staff will further investigate possible funding options.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Benedict

F.C.2016-3-5

"That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

- Northern Development Initiative Trust - Forest Innovation Fund will Provide Support for Small Business;
- Nechako Valley Regional Cattleman Association – Draft Resolution – Wood Ash as a Liming Agent and Low Level Fertilizer for Agricultural Land in British Columbia;
- Species at Risk Public Registry - Notifications of Updates;
- Canfor – CEO Don Kayne's Blog - Changing the Way we Move Logs;
- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Fibre Recovery Tenures."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nechako Valley Regional Cattleman Association – Draft Resolution – Wood Ash as a Liming Agent and Low Level Fertilizer for Agricultural Land in British Columbia

Director Parker mentioned that he has been investigating options to streamline the process of utilizing wood ash as a liming agent and low level fertilizer for agricultural land in BC.

The Fraser Basin Council is meeting on March 18, 2016 to discuss the issue further. Discussion took place in regard to bringing forward a resolution to NCLGA and or UBCM in regard to the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Newell

F.C.2016-3-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 10:14 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rob MacDougall, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



RECEIVED

APR 04 2016

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
BULKLEY NECHAKO

Reference: 220546

March 31, 2016

Bill Miller, Chair
Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
P.O. Box 820
Burns Lake, British Columbia
V0J 1E0

Dear Bill Miller:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2016, regarding the proposed Kluskus Connector Road. As this issue falls under the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, I am responding on behalf of the province.

Discussions with stakeholders and First Nations are occurring regarding the possibility of a proposed development to connect with the Kluskus Road. At this time an application has not been submitted. Ministry staff will continue to engage in discussions with all parties to ensure that all information regarding this future proposal has been considered. The intent is to encourage a collaborative approach to economic development between the Cariboo Regional District and the Bulkley Nechako Regional District in regard to the Kluskus road connector.

If you require further information regarding the Kuskus Road Connector, please contact Josh Pressey, District Manager, Quesnel Natural Resource District by phone at 250 992-4465 or by email at Josh.Pressey@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North
Honourable John Rustad, MLA, Nechako Lakes
Mayor Bob Simpson, City of Quesnel
Josh Pressey, District Manager, Quesnel Natural Resource District
David Van Dolah, District Manager, Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District

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MAR 23 2016

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
BULKLEY NECHAKO

British Columbia News

Public Input invited on Prince George Timber Supply Area

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/10550>

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 2:01 PM

Prince George - Comments are being accepted until May 24, 2016, on a discussion paper released today as part of a comprehensive timber supply review for the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

Public feedback on the discussion paper will be considered by the chief forester before setting the new allowable annual cut. The discussion paper provides the results of the timber supply analysis, including a base-case harvest forecast. It also describes the geography, natural resources and current forest management practices in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

The Prince George Timber Supply Area, the largest in the Province, covers approximately 7.97 million hectares in the north-central portion of the province, with approximately 3.1 million hectares available for timber harvesting.

The City of Prince George is the largest community in the timber supply area which includes the municipalities of Vanderhoof and Fort St. James and Village of Fraser Lake, as well as several smaller unincorporated communities.

The chief forester's allowable annual cut determination is an independent professional judgment based on information such as technical forestry reports and input from First Nations and the public.

In April 2015, the Province and seven Carrier Sekani First Nations, whose territories encompass the Prince George Timber Supply Area, signed an agreement which provides a framework to deepen collaboration on a range of issues – including allowable annual cut decisions.

Government has been consulting with First Nations throughout this timber supply review regarding the potential impacts of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination on First Nations interests.

Under the Forest Act, the chief forester must determine the maximum amount of wood that can be harvested in each of the province's 38 timber supply areas and 35 tree farm licences at least once every 10 years. However, a new allowable annual cut may be determined earlier in response to abnormal situations, or the current allowable annual cut postponed for up to five years if it is not expected to change significantly.

To download a copy of the discussion paper, visit the following Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations forest analysis and inventory branch webpage:

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tsa/tsa24/index.htm>

Copies of the discussion paper can be viewed at: Prince George Natural Resource District: 2000 S. Ospika Boulevard, Prince George; Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District: 2537 Stones Bay Road, Fort St. James; Vanderhoof Office, Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District 1560 HWY 16 East, Vanderhoof.

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Media Contacts

Greig Bethel

Media Relations

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

250 356-5261

British Columbia News

British Columbia government acting on spruce beetle

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/10475>

Friday, March 11, 2016 9:15 AM

Prince George - In response to recent increases in the spruce beetle population, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is committing \$1 million and has designated a spruce beetle manager to work with First Nations, local communities and stakeholders to develop a regional spruce beetle management plan.

The spruce beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*) is a common forest pest that normally feeds on the inner bark of weakened or fallen spruce trees, but is capable of killing healthy trees if the infestation is sufficiently serious and prolonged. Spruce beetle outbreaks occur regularly in British Columbia and have historically lasted up to seven or eight years.

The current infestation has affected 156,000 hectares of forest in the Omineca region, specifically the eastern valleys of the Mackenzie timber supply area and northern portions of the Prince George timber supply area. This is a significant increase from the 7,653 hectares affected in 2013 and is the largest spruce beetle outbreak since the 1980s.

Recent weather patterns, including warm springs, dry summers, warm winters and windstorms (resulting in more tree blowdowns), have contributed to the increase in spruce beetle populations in the region. The Chief Forester is monitoring the situation to help ensure a balance between maintaining the mid-term timber supply, requirements of other resource values, such as wildlife habitat and the need for sanitation control of the spruce beetle.

The insects are native to British Columbia, so it's not unusual to see them in the province's forested areas. The Omineca region contains 9,018,763 hectares of forest, with 4,728,782 hectares available for logging.

The funding of \$1 million for 2016-17 is in addition to the \$850,000 the ministry spent on spruce beetle detection activities in 2015-16. Aggressive control activities include a focus on sanitation logging on the timber-harvesting land base and use of "trap" trees in areas outside the timber-harvesting land base, such as wildlife habitat areas, or areas that are uneconomic to harvest.

Heather Wiebe, resource manager in the Mackenzie Natural Resource District, has been designated as the Omineca spruce beetle project manager. She will be forming a public advisory committee that will work with stakeholders, communities and First Nations to represent the environmental and social values the forests of Omineca provide. This will complement forest licensees' suppression plans.

Quotes:

Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson –

"The ministry has a robust forest health program and is committed to controlling the spruce beetle outbreak in the Omineca. We recognize the importance of forestry in the north as a regional economic driver."

“We need to take aggressive action to control this current spruce beetle outbreak. I’m confident that with all groups working together, we will be able to do so.”

Quick Facts:

- The Mackenzie Timber Supply Area and the Prince George Timber Supply Area were both assessed during the ministry’s “aerial overview survey” in the summer and fall of 2015.
- Aerial assessments and ground surveys are both being used to identify affected stands of spruce trees.
- Ministry staff are also investigating how remote sensing technology could be used to detect and map affected areas.

Learn more:

Factsheet about spruce beetles: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/SpruceBeetles_factsheet.pdf

Spruce beetles: www.gov.bc.ca/ominecasprucebeetle

Media Contacts

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