

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, September 8, 2016

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbald
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
– left at 11:06 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Cam Shley, Inspector, Skeena Region, Conservation Officer
Service, Ministry of Environment – left at 11:06 a.m.
Mark West, Inspector, Omineca Region, Conservation Officer
Service, Ministry of Environment - left at 11:06 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Strimbald
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2016-7-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of September 8, 2016 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – June 9, 2016

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2016-7-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of June 9, 2016 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT – Cam Shley, Inspector, Skeena Region and Mark West, Inspector, Omineca Region RE: Conservation Officer Service (COS) within the Bulkley Stikine Area

Chair Miller welcomed Cam Shley, Inspector, Skeena Region and Mark West, Inspector, Omineca Region, Conservation Officer Service Ministry of Environment.

Mr. West explained that he is responsible for Endako East and Mr. Shley is responsible for Endako West within the RDBN boundaries. Mr. West has spent over 20 years being a Conservation Officer in Burns Lake and is now the Inspector for the Omineca Region and Mr. Shley has been in the region for over 18 years.

Mr. West noted that the traditional role of the Conservation Officer Service (COS) is to enforce the *Fish and Wildlife Act*. They also enforce the *Environmental Management Act* along with 32 other pieces of legislation and are the enforcement agency for the Minister of Environment. Offences concerning fish, wildlife, air, water and land are under the jurisdiction and mandate of the Conservation Officer Service. Mr. West spoke to the challenges associated with the limited manpower in regard to the large geographical area that is covered by the COS.

Mr. West mentioned that illegal dumping sites are a major issue and take a considerable amount of the COS's time. He has worked with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and City of Prince George to waive tipping fees for interested groups to clean up illegal dumping sites and assist the COS. He noted that the COS attempts to work with municipalities to clean up illegal dump sites, it is a large provincial concern.

Mr. Shley spoke of Bear Smart Communities and working with municipalities to keep bears from dumpster diving and coming into communities to forage for food from fruit trees, etc. Mr. West commented that in working with the Northern Rocky Municipality they have developed bear management wherein the municipality changed its bylaws to follow the *Wildlife Act*. They follow a no food out and locked up garbage rule and this has assisted in the success and management of bears and reduced the need for trapping bears in the community.

In the Fernie area, the municipality and Regional District contribute to the funding for a COS to assist in enforcement with off road vehicles causing damage to the landscape and in the North Okanagan partnerships have been formed with local government and COS to assist in funding for extra boat patrols and boating safety.

Mr. West noted that a component of the review for the Bulkley Stikine interviews were performed with external clients, Mayors, RCMP, Environment Canada, and lodges asking questions such as "Does the COS provide adequate service and how to improve that service."

Director Benedict brought forward concerns in regard to predator and wildlife conflict with the agriculture sector. Mr. West mentioned that he is the lead for the BC Cattlemen's Associations Livestock Predator Program. The program involves dealing with attacks by predators, specifically wolves and coyotes on dairy, beef and sheep. The permit allows them to conduct mitigation (trapping and hunting) on harassments on Crown and private land throughout the year. The mitigation can only take place after it has been verified that the wolves and coyotes are attacking the dairy, beef and/or sheep. The permit for the BC Cattlemen's Association was issued in March of 2016 and appears to be a successful program. Director Parker mentioned that at a meeting he attended with the Livestock committee he received positive feedback in regard to the program. For dairy and beef there is a compensation request that can be submitted that is firstly reviewed by Mr. West and then forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture for compensation payout on the lost. In regard to bear and cougar attacks on dairy, beef and sheep the COS responds and will take mitigation efforts to track, trap and remove the animal on verified attacks only. The COS will also respond to attacks by wolves on horses. Geese, deer and elk harassments are addressed on a case by case basis. The COS works with the Canadian Wildlife Service which

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT – Cam Shley, Inspector, Skeena Region and Mark West, Inspector, Omineca Region RE: Conservation Officer Service (COS) within the Bulkley Stikine Area

has jurisdiction over migratory birds and can issue kill permits or scare permits to address the issues involving migratory birds.

Director Parker asked how assistance can be given to prevent illegal dumping in the region. Discussion took place in regard to calling the toll free number to report illegal dump sites. Mr. West commented that he will provide local contact information for Sergeants in the area to work to develop ideas to prevent and clean up illegal dumping. Director Thiessen mentioned that the RDBN does not have tipping fees but still sees a number of illegal dumping sites. Director Fisher suggested that illegal dumping be brought forward at a Rural Directors Committee.

Discussion took place regarding the protection of trees from wildlife using electrification, netting, vertical and horizontal fencing, and human hair.

Director Fisher brought forward the issue of people feeding deer. Mr. Shley noted that there is not a law to prevent people from feeding deer but if feeding deer leads to the attacking of dangerous animals such as cougars and bears, it is illegal. Director Repen spoke to advocating for laws to be put in place to stop the feeding of deer.

Discussion took place regarding the COS working with other Ministries and agencies to expand its resources. Mr. West noted they frequently work with BC Parks, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and other agencies whenever possible.

Director Thiessen spoke to the grizzly bear issues that seem to be arising in the Vanderhoof area.

Director Thiessen also thanked the COS for the work that they conduct and their assistance to RCMP and the region at all times.

Chair Miller spoke to the large mandate of the COS in regard to the funding and manpower that is provided. He noted that the Regional Board is willing to support and advocate for the COS if needed.

Mr. West mentioned that the COS is also involved every time there is an emergency event in the region. The COS provides resources and background information and is an asset to the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC).

Chair Miller thanked Messrs. Shley and West for attending the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Union of BC Municipalities Moved by Director Benedict
-UBCM Convention Bulletin #3 Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2016-7-3 "That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities titled "UBCM Convention Bulletin #3."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INVITATION

Union of BC Municipalities
Convention-Invitations

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2016-7-4

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following invitation for the Union of BC Municipalities Convention:

-CN Meetings – September 28 & 29, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;
-TransCanada’s Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project – September 28, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

C.W.2016-7-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:08 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant