

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
(Committee of the Whole)****Agenda**

Thursday, January 15, 2015

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>Agenda – January 15, 2015</u>	Adopt
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-4	Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2014	Receive
	<u>DELEGATION</u>	
5-6	<u>MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS (Tentative)</u> RE: Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District - Name Change from Vanderhoof Forest District and Fort St. James Forest District	
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
7-9	<i>Vancouver Sun</i> – Report Warns of Soaring Risk of “Mega-fires” in B.C.	
	<u>DISCUSSION ITEMS</u>	
	1. Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District	
	2. Tabular Rates/Stumpage Rates (tentative)	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKOFORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee of the Whole)Thursday, July 17, 2014

PRESENT: Chairperson Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Stephen Freeman
Carman Graf
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Stoney Stoltenberg
Luke Strimbold

Directors Absent Bill Holmberg, District of Houston
Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James
Ralph Roy, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural)

Alternate Directors Ken Ponsford, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Freeman
Seconded by Director StoltenbergF.C.2014-4-1

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of July 17, 2014 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLYMINUTESForestry Committee Meeting
Minutes – April 17, 2014Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director PetersenF.C.2014-4-2

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2014 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

RDBN/FLNRO/Industry Event

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Freeman

F.C.2014-4-3

"That the Forestry Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Industry event be held in the Spring of 2015."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OBAC Discussion Paper -Long Term Viability of Forest Sector

Moved by Director Miller
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

F.C.2014-4-4

"That the Forestry Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors write a letter of support to Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) regarding its discussion paper titled "Actions Needed to Achieve the Region's Objectives for its Forest Sector;" and further, encourage OBAC to continue moving forward with the initiative."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Bachrach

F.C.2014-4-5

"That the Forestry Committee receive the correspondence from the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations titled "Review of Land-Use Plans within Lakes Timber Supply Review."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Concerns were brought forward regarding sufficient public consultation.

Moved by Director Miller
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

F.C.2014-4-6

"That the Forestry Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors include in its 2014 UBCM Convention meeting request to Premier Christy Clark and Minister Steve Thomson, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations concerns regarding sufficient public consultation; and further, that a letter be forwarded to Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director, Skeena Region, MFLNRO providing an outline of the Forestry Committees concerns regarding sufficient public consultation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Miller

F.C.2014-4-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:33 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Manager of
Administrative Services

Gail Chapman

From: Gerry Thiessen <mayor@district.vanderhoof.ca>
Sent: January-07-15 4:16 PM
To: Bill Miller (bmiller.pbm@gmail.com); Gail Chapman
Subject: FW: District Name Change

From: Van Dolah, David FLNR:EX [mailto:David.VanDolah@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: January-07-15 2:23 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients:
Subject: District Name Change

Good day all;

I wish to inform you of the new name to be used for the Fort St. James and Vanderhoof Natural Resource Districts. Both districts will be amalgamated and managed as one Natural Resource District, with the boundary between the two districts being removed. The individual Natural Resource offices that currently reside in Vanderhoof and Fort St. James will be maintained and will continue to provide the high quality of service that our resource industry has come to enjoy.

The new district name is the *Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District*.

What does this mean?

- ❖ You will see correspondence from this district referring to ourselves as the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District.
- ❖ Management Units from within the district do not change; that is, the Prince George Timber Supply Area remains as is, as do area based tenures.
- ❖ The management units within the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District are the Prince George TSA, District of Fort St. James Community Forest K1D, Tanizul Timber Ltd. Community Forest K4B and 71 woodlots.
 - Negotiations on new area or volume based tenures will continue as per approved mandates and be added accordingly when completed.
- ❖ Forest Act rules and legislation continues to apply to each management unit as were in effect under the separate names of Vanderhoof and Fort St. James. Use of the Interior appraisal manual continues and the administrative areas to which they apply.
- ❖ Delegations of authority to the District Manager under the Forest Act and other related legislation continue even when referring to the district as the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District.
 - Until the name has been officially acknowledged through Lieutenant Governor Order in Council, the previous legal names of the Vanderhoof Forest District and Fort St. James Forest District will appear on official documents.
- ❖ Delegations of authority under the Land Act to the Managers and selected staff will continue as per delegations under the Land Act.

If everything else remains the same, why change the name?

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- ❖ Not everything is the same. Since 2010 both forest districts have been managed by one management team and the integration of the two offices has been occurring since that time. The combination of the two districts will begin by having staff work on a set of common processes which will allow for better client service between the two locations.
 - ❖ Working within the framework of FLNRO, we will move more and more towards full integrated resource management across the district.

How long will it take to finalize the name change?

- ❖ A similar process occurred last year, whereby the ministry saw several names being changed from Forest Districts to Natural Resource Districts. This is a provincial initiative along with a few other locations where district amalgamation has occurred (i.e. Coast Mountains and Thompson Rivers Natural Resource Districts) as they are following the same process as we are. The full systems change is expected to take two years or more to complete.

Please forward this message on to other colleagues within your organization, so that they are aware of this change.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

David Van Dolah, RFT

District Manager

Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District

Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations

Phone: 250-567-6326 Vanderhoof

Phone: 250-996-5241 Fort St. James

Economic Prosperity and Environmental Sustainability

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Report warns of soaring risk of 'mega-fires' in B.C.

Firefighting won't be enough to stop devastating fires; report calls for new emphasis on prevention

By Bethany Lindsay and Larry Pynn, Vancouver Sun

Read

more: <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Report+warns+soaring+risk+mega+fires/10438378/story.html#ixzz3L31G5T00>



A report warns that the province needs to emphasize clearing of brush and building of fire guards because firefighting alone cannot stop the severe fires that are becoming more common.

As the planet heats up and the risk of "mega fires" rises, B.C. will no longer be able to lean on its world-class wildfire-fighting teams to keep people and property safe, according to a draft provincial document.

The Forests Ministry paper, called Climate Change Adaption Action Plan for Wildfire Management 2014-2024, suggests fire prevention should become the top priority of the province.

"It is not an option to continue to increase fire suppression response and associated costs, because even the most aggressive action would neither be safe nor effective for the extreme wildfire events such as those seen in Kelowna in 2003 and Slave Lake in 2010," reads the draft, obtained through a freedom of information request.

“During these events, suppression response cannot be relied upon to protect communities or natural resource values. The only protection provided will be the protection established before the fire, provided through wildland-urban interface fuel reduction and landscape fire management.”

The document, dated last April, says the average temperature in B.C. is predicted to rise by four degrees by 2080. That warming trend, combined with the higher rate of wildfire spread in forests affected by the mountain pine beetle, means that “mega fires” will be increasingly common.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has predicted that severe wildfires will happen at least 50 per cent more often by 2050.

Besides the safety concerns, extreme wildfire fire seasons can have huge economic impacts. The 2003 wildfire season cost B.C. \$1.3 billion in firefighting costs and indirect economic losses.

The draft suggests B.C. approach the problem by investing in “fire planning and management at all scales.”

The proposed strategies include encouraging private landowners to participate in the FireSmart Canada program, which teaches homeowners about planting fire-safe vegetation and shows developers how to plan projects with wildfire prevention in mind. The plan also calls for communities in high-risk areas to develop fire protection strategies that include removing potential fuels like dry brush in areas where wilderness meets human habitation.

On a broader scale, the draft paper suggests bringing together local governments, First Nations, the forest industry and natural resource managers to create a widespread system of fuel breaks — things like roadways and other gaps in vegetation that can prevent wildfires from spreading. It also calls for fire prevention measures to be included in all land management planning and communication strategies to keep the public informed about wildfire risks.

The documents released by the Forests Ministry also include a 2012 discussion paper from the Wildfire Management Branch that warns of the alarming impacts climate change — combined with pine-beetle die-off — could have on the size, frequency and severity of wildfires in the southern Interior of B.C.

The report predicts that by 2080, the region will experience:

An increase in the size of major fires, doubling from an average of 7.9 square kilometres to 19 square kilometres.

An increase in the severity of fires, by 40 per cent in spring, 95 per cent in summer and 30 per cent in fall.

- A longer fire season and a 30-per-cent jump in the number of fires.
- A four to seven per cent increase in severe fire behaviour, such as crowning, when fire jumps rapidly from the top of one tree to another.

“Along with increasing wildfire potential, the costs of suppression response and the economic losses will also increase exponentially, including losses to communities, natural resource values and midterm timber supply,” the paper predicts.

The province in 2004 identified 17,300 square kilometres potentially at risk of wildfires — 6,850 square kilometres of that high risk. To date, just 430 square kilometres have been managed to reduce fuels.

“The benefit of this initiative was clearly demonstrated in 2009 and 2010 wildfire seasons when three communities — West Kelowna, Alexis Creek and Barnhartvale — were spared major wildfire damages as a result of successful fuel reduction projects,” the paper said.

As a result of the 2003 Kelowna wildfires and the 2004 report into those fires, the provincial and federal governments spent \$37 million on a wildfire prevention program. The province added another \$25 million in 2011 to assist local governments and First Nations to reduce the risk to wildfires.

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Read more:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Report+warns+soaring+risk+mega+fires/10438378/story.html#ixzz3L30bBGYW>