

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee of the Whole)**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Luke Strimbold – arrived at 10:48 a.m.  
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)  
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Manager of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District  
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure – Via Teleconference  
- 10:37 a.m. to 10:58 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

**F.C.2016-2-1**

“That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of February 11, 2016 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Forestry Committee Meeting  
Minutes – January 14, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Repen

F.C.2016-2-2

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (via teleconference) RE: Proposed 9-Axle B-Train Log Hauling**

Chair MacDougall welcomed Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure.

Ms. Andrews provided an overview of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s (MoTI) role in approving the proposed 9 – Axle B-Train log hauling. The Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) Department of the MoTI provides a stringent permitting process for any changes to commercial vehicle transportation. The proposed 9-Axle B-Train log hauling process began two years ago and Ms. Andrews became aware of the proposal six months ago. CVSE implements a stringent engineering process in regard to the impact to bridges, vehicle tracking, safety, and functionality on MoTI roadways.

FP Innovation is the consultant working with the companies involved in the proposal for a 9-Axle B-Train for log hauling. The unit will be approximately 5.2 ft. longer and will have more axles for weight distribution than a current log truck unit. The final weight of the unit loaded has yet to be determined. One of the reasons for the proposed change is to address driver shortage. One test has been completed on Highway 16 which is the jurisdiction of the MoTI. If the permitting process and a submission to operate on a specific route is approved and a Letter of Authority is granted by MoTI then other companies may also choose to utilize the same unit and apply for approval. The routes in which an application has been submitted are Highway 16 from West Fraser’s Fraser Lake Sawmill in Fraser Lake to Canfor’s Isle Pierre Sawmill in Prince George and Highway 27 to the end of the MoTI road on the North Road, 106 kms past the Tachie junction. Ms. Andrews noted that Canfor (Canadian Forest Products Ltd.) is leading the proposal and specific questions can be forwarded to them. Ms. Andrews will provide the contact information to the Forestry Committee.

Director Lindstrom brought forward his concerns regarding the extra weight being added to the unit and the damage to the highways. He also brought forward concerns regarding the unit’s maneuverability on forest service roads. Ms. Andrews noted that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for Forest Service Roads. Ms. Andrews spoke of the rutting occurring on the highway surface from all commercial and vehicle traffic. The MoTI currently has paving engineers examining methods to gain more strength in the pavement applied to the highway surfaces. Ms. Andrews mentioned that there would be zero tolerance in regard to the weight carried by a 9-Axle B-Train log hauler. Director Miller also noted the importance of axle spacing to distribute weight on a log haul unit and asked if this had been considered. Ms. Andrews will forward the question to ministry staff for comment.

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

### **Karen Andrews, Operations Manager, Fort George District, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (via teleconference) RE: Proposed 9-Axle B-Train Log Hauling**

Ms. Andrews mentioned that the MoTI investigates the operation, safety, and tracking of a unit on MoTI roads along with whether or not current infrastructure can handle the additional type of unit and the potential benefit to infrastructure. Chair MacDougall brought forward challenges associated with improving the North Road in Fort St. James and the need to maintain the infrastructure. Ms. Andrews noted the importance of the North Road and the changes that have been made to better

the use of the road. Director Miller noted that the maintenance and improvements to road infrastructure is a cost to tax payers of the province and this needs to be considered when approving a permit application. Discussion took place regarding consultation and an opportunity for local government to provide comment when the MoTI is determining the approval of a permit such as the 9-Axle B-Train log hauling unit. Ms. Andrews mentioned that MoTI receives a number of permit applications that do not move forward thus the delay in consultation.

Chair MacDougall and Director Thiessen have been in contact with Jason Fisher, Director, Forest Sector Strategies, Competitiveness and Innovation Branch, Prince George, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Chair MacDougall thanked Ms. Andrews for attending the meeting via teleconference.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Correspondence**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Newell

### **F.C.2016-2-3**

"That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

-FP Innovations – Realizing the Benefits of Maximizing Payloads in BC's Transportation Sector;  
-Canadian Forest Products Ltd. – Canfor's Plans in the Fort St. James Forest District."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Electoral Area Directors Forum – February 2-3, 2016 -Richmond, B.C.**

Director Miller mentioned that he provided a presentation in regard to Wildfire Interface at the Electoral Area Directors Forum on February 2-3, 2016 in Richmond, B.C. and it was well received.

### **Fraser Lake Community Forest**

Director Lindstrom commented that the Village of Fraser will meet with Stellat'en First Nation and Nadleh Whut'en Band along with Director Parker, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural) this evening (February 11, 2016) in regard to the Fraser Lake Community Forest.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)**

RDBN Forestry Committee  
Message to the Province

Director Thiessen noted the importance of the RDBN Forestry Committee developing a regional message in regard to forestry issues in the region, fibre supply and shortage, wildfire mitigation, road protection, safety, employment and investment potential that can be provided to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Weight Load of Log Haulers

Safety concerns were brought forward in regard to the added weight on the proposed 9-axle B-trains and the potential for braking issues. The extra axles proposed may assist in stopping power for the truck during summer months but during winter months that would not be the case.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Strimbold  
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

F.C.2016-2-4

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:18 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Rob MacDougall, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant