

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee Of The Whole)**

**Thursday, March 7, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dolores Funk  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Brad Layton  
Linda McGuire  
Rob Newell  
Bev Playfair  
Jerry Petersen  
Kim Watt-Senner –left at 1:28 p.m.  
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Absent Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Alternate Director Doug Bysouth, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Protective Services  
Maria Sandberg, Planner – arrived at 2:24 p.m., left at 2:29 p.m.  
Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician/Regional Transit  
Coordinator – left at 1:03 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Linda Berg, Executive Director, Lake Babine Nation – arrived at  
1:00 p.m., left at 1:03 p.m.  
Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs, Ministry of  
Transportation and Infrastructure – left at 1:03 p.m.  
Rob Ringma, Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit - left  
at 1:03 p.m.

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Brienen  
Seconded by Director Lambert

**AG.2019-2-1**

“That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of March 7, 2019 be  
adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -January 3, 2019

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Layton

AG.2019-2-2

“That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of January 3, 2019 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS**

BC Ministry of Agriculture Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop 2019

Moved by Director Layton  
Seconded by Director Watt-Senner

AG.2019-2-3

“That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s February 26, 2019 memo titled “BC Ministry of Agriculture Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop 2019.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Emergency & Livestock Preparedness Workshops Update

Moved by Director Watt-Senner  
Seconded by Director Newell

AG.2019-2-4

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s February 26, 2019 memo titled “RDBN Emergency & Livestock Preparedness Workshops Update.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director McGuire brought forward the potential to distribute the “RDBN Emergency & Livestock Preparedness Workshops Update – Granisle” via mail box. Due to the smaller population base the cost is approximately \$40.

RDBN Agriculture Plan 2019 Update

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Layton

AG.2019-2-5

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s February 26, 2019 memo titled “RDBN Agriculture Plan 2019 Update.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to including a marketing plan for the RDBN Agriculture 2019 Plan Update once complete and including a list of agriculture groups and emergency management planning in the updated plan.

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### **Bill 52 and ALC Regulation Changes**

Moved by Director Layton  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### **AG.2019-2-6**

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the Planner’s February 26, 2019 memo titled “Bill 52 and ALC Regulation Changes.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Protective Services provided a brief overview of the Bill 52 and ALC Regulation Changes. Concerns were expressed in regard to the changes and impacts to the region. Foreign ownership of agricultural lands continues to be a concern also.

## **Break for Regional Transit Committee Meeting at 1:01 p.m.**

## **Reconvened at 2:11 p.m.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE & INVITATION**

### **Correspondence**

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Fisher

### **AG.2019-2-7**

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the following:

#### **Correspondence**

- Province of B.C. – Legislation to Protect Farmland Now in Force
- Province of B.C. – New Agricultural Rules Will Better Protect Human Health, Environment
- Beef in BC – An Update – BC Beef Packing Plant
- Country Life in BC – Province Boosts Risk Management Funding.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Smithers Farmers’ Institute -Carrots to Cattle 2019: Growing from the Ground Up**

Moved by Director Layton  
Seconded by Director Brien

### **AG.2019-2-8**

“That the Agriculture Committee recommended that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors ratify Agriculture Chair Mark Parker’s attendance at the Smithers Farmers’ Institute – Carrots to Cattle 2019: Growing from the Ground Up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **VERBAL REPORTS**

### **Chair Parker – Nechako Regional Cattlemen's Update**

- Provided an overview and update
- Brought forward the ALC Regulation changes
- Ms. Evans provided a Fire Smart presentation
- Nechako Regional Cattlemen's had a last minute resolution submitted in regard to a land use issue
  - o Chair Parker identified that the land being within the Agriculture Land Reserve, a provincial zone, is under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Land Commission
  - o Mr. Llewellyn provided an update in regard to the non-farm use of the land
  - o Director Petersen mentioned that the BC Cattlemen's Association will address the resolution at its meeting in May, 2019
- Staff provided information in regard to the RDBN Zoning Bylaw review that is currently taking place and the process to provide feedback

### **Chair Parker/Director Fisher/Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – Carrots to Cattle Update**

- Really good event and presenters
- Met with Ian Paton, Official Opposition Co-Critic for Agriculture
  - o Discussed concerns in regard to the ALC changes
  - o Foreign ownership
- Agriculture Regulation changes in regard to soil sampling was also discussed
- Good to have staff in attendance
- Approximately 100 people were in attendance with individuals in attendance from as far away as Vancouver Island
- Director Fisher spoke of the need to support and build capacity within community groups
- Ms. Evans noted that it was good to participate in the tradeshow
- Very good representation of the Agriculture sector

Director Greenaway mentioned the benefit of having a similar event in the Fort St. James/Vanderhoof area. Director Fisher commented that he would be willing to work with Directors and local groups to facilitate relationships between community groups throughout the region to potentially host a similar event.

### **Verbal Reports**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Layton

### **AG.2019-2-9**

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the verbal reports as presented."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Water Sustainability Act** **-Licensing Groundwater Use**

Director Lambert brought forward concerns in regard to the *Water Sustainability Act* – Licensing Groundwater Use. He spoke of other groups and regions having concerns. Chair Parker mentioned bringing the issue forward at a future RDBN meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Layton  
Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-2-10

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:31 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Mark Parker, Chair

---

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant