

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, September 5, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Jerry Petersen
Bev Playfair
Michael Riis-Christianson
Kim Watt-Senner
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake
Absent Rob Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Layton

AG.2019-5-1

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of September 5, 2019 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Meeting Minutes
-May 2, 2019

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Brienen

AG.2019-5-2

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of May 2, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

RDBN 2012 Agriculture Plan Update Report

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-5-3

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator’s September 5, 2019 memo titled “RDBN 2012 Agriculture Plan Update report.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NDIT – Agriculture Coordinator -Pilot Project Extension and Disbursement Schedule -Northern Development Project Number 5112 20

Moved by Director Playfair
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

AG.2019-5-4

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from Northern Development Initiative Trust – Agriculture Coordinator - Pilot Project Extension and Disbursement Schedule – Northern Development Project Number 5112 20.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Meat Inspection Program RE: Feedback on Class D Licences – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG.2019-5-5

“That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from the BC Meat Inspection Program RE: Feedback on Class D Licences – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORT

Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) – Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an overview of the challenges regarding the Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture Land Commission’s (ALC) regulation prohibiting the deposit of soils from another parcel of land onto land within the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) being limited to 1,000 m² and the ALC expecting local governments to enforce their regulations through the local government building permit process. Staff are currently researching the RDBN’s role and flexibility in addressing the ALC requirements. Mr. Llewellyn outlined the ALC application process for a property owner needing to conduct groundwork on their property that requires more than 1,000 m² of soils. The ALC has 60 days once a property owner submits a Notice of Intent to provide approval or request further information, if more information is required the timeline is extended a further 60 days. Concerns were brought forward in regard to the potentially lengthy process and impacts to a property owner in a short northern building season. The ALC also provides a second option that potentially lessens the wait time but a separate application is required for a \$1,500 permit fee.

The Board expressed its concerns in regard to the ALC’s expectation of local government. Frustrations were brought forward in regard to the ALC eliminating the two zones and only having one zone for the Province and no northern input. Discussion took place in regard to the Board advocating for a two zone system.

VERBAL REPORT (CONT'D)

Staff will bring forward a report at the September 19, 2019 Board Meeting regarding the RDBN's roles concerning the ALC's expectation of local government. Director Fisher requested staff bring forward a press release in regard to the information including the Board's stance on the issue at the September 19, 2019 meeting for Board review.

Discussion took place regarding the potential intent of the ALC regulations and questions were raised in regard to the Ministry of Agriculture educating the public in regard to the regulation changes.

Chair Parker noted the importance of meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and the Liberal Opposition Critic at the 2019 UBCM Convention.

Verbal Report

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-5-6

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the Director of Planning's verbal report re: Agriculture Land Commission."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Watt-Senner
Seconded by Director Layton

AG.2019-5-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:05 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant