

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, October 10, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Kim Watt-Senner
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill, Town of Smiithers
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Rob Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)
Bev Playfair, District of Fort St. James

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:12 a.m.,
returned at 10:25 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Via- Sara Dent, Executive Director, Young Agrarians – 10:00 a.m. to
Teleconference 10:21 a.m.
Jolene Swain, Land Matcher, Central & Northern BC Young
Agrarians - 10:00 a.m. to 10:21 a.m.

Others Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, Coastal GasLink Project,
TC Energy, left at 10:12 a.m., returned at 10:25 a.m.
Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Coordinator, Coastal GasLink, TC
Energy – left at 10:12 a.m., returned at 10:25 a.m.
Janine De Le Salle, Principal, Urban Food Strategies
James O’Hanley, Deputy Commissioner, BC Oil and Gas
Commission – arrived at 10:27 a.m.
Peter Dalton, Director, Security and Emergency Management,
BC Oil and Gas Commission – arrived at 10:27 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Layton

AG.2019-6-1

“That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of October 10, 2019 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Meeting Minutes
-September 5, 2019

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Petersen

AG,2019-6-2

“That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of September 5, 2019 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

YOUNG AGRARIANS – Jolene Swain, Land Matcher, Central & Northern BC and Sara Dent, Executive Director RE: BC Land Matching Program (via teleconference)

Chair Parker welcomed Jolene Swain, Land Matcher, Central & Northern BC, and Sara Dent, Executive Director, Young Agrarians.

Ms. Swain provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Young Agrarians

- Growing the Next Generation of Farmers and Food Lovers in Canada
- Farmer – 2 – Farmer Networking
- Number of Canadians who Farm
- Young Agrarians
- Land Access
 - Value per Acre of Farmland in BC
 - Percentage of Farm Operators in BC under 35
- Land Access in Central/Northern BC
- BC Land Matching Program (BCLMP)
- BC Land Program Impact
- Central & Northern BCLMP Impact Indicators: June 2019—To Date
- UMAP: Land & Farmer Inventory
- Annual Land Linking Event Oct 20 in PG
- BCLMP Projected Impact Indicators – Overview April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020
- Thank you to Funders.

Ms. Dent requested that the Agriculture Committee consider endorsement of the Young Agrarian BC Land Matching program.

Director McGuire questioned if the program has been introduced at the University level. Ms. Dent mentioned that they will be reaching out to universities and their students.

Director Fisher brought forward the following: two thirds of new farmers don't come from a family farm background. Ms. Dent spoke of one of the reasons that the Young Agrarians has grown is because of this fact. Ms. Dent spoke of Farmer – 2 – Farmer networking providing experienced and knowledgeable farmers/operations as a solid information anchor point in communities. They can provide a very good base of knowledge to new farmers or those considering farming.

Chair Parker asked about the size of parcels being considered for land matching. Ms. Swain noted that in Central B.C. a number of the parcels are larger. There is interest currently but matches have not yet been completed in Central B.C. Ms. Swain commented that a number are farmers looking for larger parcels to expand operations or for succession planning.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Swain and Ms. Dent for attending the meeting.

REPORT

Funding of Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regional Adaptation Strategy Projects (2020-2023)

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Watt-Senner

AG.2019-6-3

“That the Agriculture Committee approve the support of annual funding in principal in the amount of \$7,500 for the years 2020 to 2023 for the Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George, BC Agriculture & Climate Change, Regional Adaptation Strategies Projects subject to final budget approval by the Board;

And that Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator continue to serve as the RDBN representative on the Advisory Committee;

And that the Administration Department will determine level of in-kind participation based on expertise and available resources, where the RDBN has been identified as a potential partner for an identified action.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORT

Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Land Commission Engagement Session Supporting B.C. Farmers Meeting October 3, 2019 – Prince George

Chair Parker, along with Director Lambert, Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator attended the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Land Commission Engagement Session Supporting B.C. Farmers Meeting October 3, 2019 – Prince George.

Chair Parker mentioned that it was long overdue that the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Land Commission heard northern B.C.’s voices and it was a good meeting. He mentioned that there has been verbal confirmation that there will be some changes to the ALC Fill Regulations and Driveways. Chair Parker commented there is still a need to continue to lobby for second dwellings in the ALR. Ms. Evans reported that messaging regarding the need for the ALC and Ministry of Agriculture to support farmers not just agricultural lands was voiced at the meeting.. She also mentioned that a number of farmers planning for succession are now reconsidering due to some of the new ALC Regulations. Director Thiessen expressed his surprise that the ALC and MoA have not conducted an Agriculture Tour in northern B.C. prior to these engagement sessions.

Director Lambert spoke of the four pillars of agriculture and farmers, at the inception of the ALR, agreeing with the Province to place their lands into the ALR and components of the agreement no longer being honoured. Chair Parker suggested gathering information in regard to the original inception of the ALR and the protection measures that were to be provided under the agreement for the farmer.

Verbal Report

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Watt-Senner

AG.2019-6-4

“That the Verbal Reports from various Directors be received as presented.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Watt-Senner
Seconded by Director McGuire

AG.2019-6-5

“In accordance with Section 90(1)(i) of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Committee Members that the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose must be closed to the public and therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-6-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:31 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant