



HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS – MAY 18, 2006

Community and Recreation Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for recreation program costs.
- Beaverley Community Association for picnic tables and recreation program costs.
- Hixon Community Association for insurance costs.
- Longworth Community Association for repairs to the school house.
- Penny Community Association for roofing materials.
- Willow River Recreation Association for property purchase costs.
- McLeod Lake Centennial Club for insurance costs, Appreciation Dinner expenses and Hall repairs.
- McLeod Lake Post Historical Society for church site renovations and improvements.
- Chilako/Nechako Emergency Social Services for Emergency Reception Center.

McBride Minor Hockey Club - Property Use Agreement

The Board gave second and third readings to Bylaw 2289, 2006 which provides for a 3-year renewal of the property use agreement for the Club's lease of the concession area of the Robson Valley Recreation Centre. Public advertising will occur prior to this bylaw going back to Board for consideration of adoption.

Willow River Water and Sewer – Feasibility Study

The Regional District will work with the Willow River Recreation Association to evaluate the feasibility of providing a water and sewer system for the community. The Regional District will apply to the Ministry of Community Services for a grant to assist with the cost of the study.

New Fire/Rescue Pumper Truck – Valemount and District Rescue Service

The Board awarded a contract to Fort Garry Fire Trucks for the purchase of a new Fire/Rescue Pumper Truck for the Valemount and District Rescue Service.

Innovation in Fire Services Pilot Program Grant

The Ministry of Community Services has advised the Regional District has been awarded a grant for \$25,000 to assist with funding for a consolidated computer-aided dispatch and records management system for fire/rescue agencies dispatched by the Fire Operations Communication Centre.

Regional District Fire and Safety Training Facility

The Board decided that no further action will be taken with respect to a proposed Regional Fire and Safety Training Facility. This decision was based on a report from the Regional Fire and Safety Training Technical Committee advising that sufficient sustaining revenue is not available, and there are existing training facilities to meet the training needs of the area.

Fire Protection Boundary Expansion

- The Ferndale/Tabor Fire Protection boundary has been expanded to include a property on Ferndale Road.
- The McBride District Fire Protection boundary has been expanded to include 3 properties that abut the northwest boundary along Highway 16.

Building Statistics – April 2006

A total of 111 permits, valued at \$5,119,350 have been issued to the end of April; 38 more than were issued for the same period last year. Twenty-five single-family dwelling permits valued at \$4,260,400 have been issued, compared to 12 dwellings last year.

Zoning Amendment Bylaw – Hunniford – Chief Lake Road

Following a public consideration, Board approved a zoning amendment to allow the applicants a second dwelling, a manufactured home to be occupied by the owners' daughter, on their property. The property is located at the corner of Aquarius Road and Chief Lake Road and is approximately 16 acres in size.

Subdivision Rezoning – Hicks and Frisk – Valemount Area

The Board approved a zoning amendment to allow the creation of 4 parcels from approximately 107 acres. The property is located on Pine Road, west of the Village of Valemount. The Regional Board adopted an Official Community Plan amendment at their April meeting and Ministry of Transportation approval was received on April 24, 2006, so the zoning amendment was now able to be approved.

Rezoning – Christianson and DeCooman – General Store, Ness Lake

The Board adopted a zoning amendment to allow for a general store on the property at the corner of Ness Lake Road and Lakeside Drive, across from Ness Lake Firehall. A public hearing was held at the January 2006 Regional District Board meeting and the Board gave second and third readings to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2263. Adoption of the bylaw was delayed until such time as a covenant could be registered regulating screening, façade and visual aspects of the store, and clean-up should the user cease operation, this requirement has now been met.

ALR Inclusion Application – Jackson – Brownscome Road – Hixon Area

The Board recommended the Agricultural Land Commission include property owned by Floyd and Wanda Jackson at the west end of Brownscombe Road, north of Hixon into the Agricultural Land Reserve. The owners have applied to purchase this land for agricultural purposes from the Crown.

ALR Subdivision – Wilson – Hidden Lake Road – Dunster Area

The Board approved an application by David Wilson to subdivide off his home-site from the remainder of the property, using Hidden Lake Road as the dividing line. The property is approximately 150 acres and is located between McBride and Dunster at 5490 Hidden Lake Road.

ALR Subdivision – Johnson – Goose Country Road – Prince George Area

The Board approved an application by Carl and Georgina Johnson to separate their 10 acre homesite from the remainder of the 300 acre property on 3450-3585 Goose Country Road. The approval is subject to the amalgamation of the remaining approximately 290 acres with another farm property in the area. This action should in fact strengthen the long term agricultural potential of a larger farm unit.

Public Information Meeting – Liedl – Torpy Road – Prince George Area

The Board approved the holding of a public information meeting to consider the application by Rudi Liedl to exclude his property at 3280 Torpy Road from the Agricultural Land Reserve to develop a light industrial subdivision.

Special Event Permit – Canoe Mountain Music Festival

The Board approved an amendment to the preliminary approval dates for the Canoe Mountain Music Festival from August 18, 19, and 20 to August 25, 26, and 27, 2006.

North Central Motorsports Park – Raceway Road off Chief Lake Road

Board approved the Street Legal Program at North Central Motorsport Park for Friday nights of the 2006 racing season, to end no later than 9:00 p.m. and including Thursday, July 27, 2006. Board also approved North Central Motorsport Park to hold drag racing events on July 28, July 30, September 2 and September 3, 2006. To comply with a covenant attached to the title of the dragstrip property, North Central Motorsports must seek approval from the Regional Board for drag racing events and other automotive sports which are proposed to run later than 6:00 p.m.

West Lake Community Sewer System Land Tenure

The Board approved execution of a License of Occupation for 20 hectares of Crown Land in the West Lake Estates settlement area for a community sewer lagoon treatment and discharge facility.

Request to Ministry of Forests to Treat High Fuel Areas

A request will be made to the Ministry of Forests and Range to take action to reduce the risk of wildfire on Crown Land which has been identified as high risk west of the City of Prince George in the City's community wildfire protection plan.

Competitive Bid Process for Refuse Hauling Services

The Board approved the tendering of refuse hauling services for rural transfer stations.

Operational Changes to Unmanned Rural Transfer Stations

The Board approved operational changes to meet the Municipal Insurance Association's recommendation to reduce liability at unmanned transfer stations. Public mistreatment of the unmanned rural transfer stations, due to open and unrestricted access, has been an ongoing operation concern. The Regional District will work towards establishing regular operating hours with supervision at problem sites starting with Chief Lake and West Lake.

Exemption of Tipping Fees for Non-Profit Restore Operations

The Board approved tipping exemptions for:

- Habitat for Humanity, and
- Salvation Army Thrift store.

These restore operations support the waste reduction objectives of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Waste Characterization Study

The Board approved the undertaking of a Waste Characterization Study at the Foothills landfill facility. The purpose of this study is to detail the composition of the waste stream and will provide valuable information regarding the effectiveness of existing waste reduction programs including the multi-material recycling system and products included in the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation. The study will also be useful in identifying new waste reduction initiatives.

2005 Audited Financial Statements

The Board received a report from its auditors (Deloitte & Touche) concerning financial activity in 2005. The report concluded that the Regional District's finances are in good order but that additional consideration needs to be given with respect to funding post-closure costs for the region's sanitary landfills.

UBCM Community Tourism Program

The Regional Board approved the submission of an application for funding to the UBCM Community Tourism Program. The primary objective of the program is to assist in building stronger local economies through strategic funding initiatives which build on community strengths and assets. The focus of the Regional District's submission will be around the Regional Cultural Plan, regional parks, and community infrastructure improvements (eg. recreation facilities, core services).

Emergency Program Coordinator

The Board appointed Donna Munt, Manager of Public Safety to fulfill the duties of Emergency Planning Coordinator for the Regional District. The responsibilities of the position will include the coordination of the Regional District's obligations under the *Emergency Program Act* with local, provincial and First Nations agencies, the equipping and maintaining of the Emergency Operations Centre, and training staff and volunteers to ensure program readiness in the event of an emergency.

Support for McBride, BC AKA "Hockeyville"

The Board passed a resolution in support of the Village of McBride being awarded the distinction of Hockeyville, Canada. The Board believes that McBride's efforts to capture this title exemplify all of the positive attributes of hockey culture in small-town Canada and, for this reason, should be supported.

For more information please contact 960-4400.