



Peace River Regional District *Board Newsletter*

Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and
the Peace River Regional District Board Meeting, held July 26, 2007

Mountain Pine Beetle Update

Rob Kopecky, Operations Manager, Tenures, Elizabeth Hunt, Stewardship Officer and Stephanie Haight, Tenures Technician of the Ministry of Forests and Range gave an update on the progress this year of the Mountain Pine Beetle. There is some indication that the beetle has been killed over the winter during the periods of warm weather followed by the cold snaps. Inspections performed this spring indicated that there was up to an eighty per cent mortality experienced in some areas.

The ministry is continuing to aggressively attack the beetle problem in the region in hopes of deterring its travel into other provinces but some beetles have recently been found in southern Alberta. Mr. Kopecky mentioned that in some cases the beetle will also attack spruce trees but that those beetles usually do not survive. For further information on the subject, visit their website at: www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle



North Peace Care Centre

Lee Hall, Chief Operating Officer, Northeast Health Services Delivery Area introduced Cathy Ulrich to the Hospital Board. Ms. Ulrich is the new President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Health. The Board welcomed Ms. Ulrich to the region and is looking forward to building a strong working relationship with her.

Ms. Hall advised that the mental health patient who was of concern at the North Peace Care Centre has been removed and a report from the consultation process undertaken by the Northern Health Board will be released in the near future.



Aeolis Wind Power Corporation

Ms. Colleen Brown, Director of Projects and Planning presented an update on the Bear Mountain, Thunder Mountain and Hackney Hills Wind Park projects.

Aeolis is expecting to start up in Bear Mountain by September or October this year. Wind testing is currently underway for the Hackney Hills and Thunder Mountain Wind Parks and will continue to the Environmental Assessment process next.



Other Highlights

- ★ Blair Lekstrom, MLA Peace River South attended the meeting to clarify that a Provincial Water Licence is not required for dugouts. He added that the Ministry of Environment will not be accepting applications for a water licence for dugouts from anyone.
- ★ Rural Directors received authorization to attend the second annual Building Sustainable Communities Conference, November 20 to 22, 2007 in Kelowna, BC.
- ★ A letter is to be sent to Mr. David Conway of BC Hydro regarding the costs related to the "Remote Community Electrification Program" and whether the program is available to residents in the Pink Mountain region.



Next Regional Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be held Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 10 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Peace River Regional District office at 1981 Alaska Avenue in Dawson Creek



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