



## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

### MARCH SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 13, 2013

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Board Room, Peace River Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT:

**Directors**

Chair Goodings  
Director Hadland  
Director Hiebert  
Director Jarvis  
Director Caisley  
Director Schembri  
Director Christensen  
Director Fynn  
Director Bernier  
Director Nichols  
Director Johansson

**Alternate Directors**

Alternate Director

**Absent**

Director Ackerman

**Staff**

Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer  
Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services  
Kole Casey, South Peace Land Use Planner  
Paulo Eichelberger, Solid Waste Coordinator  
Fran Haughian, Communications Manager / Commission Liaison  
Brenda Deliman, Secretary – Legislative Services

**Others**

Laurel Hadland, Baldonnel  
Janice and Jim McKnight, Fort St. John  
Max Eichelberger, Taylor  
Rita Eichelberger, Taylor  
Anna Eichelberger, Dawson Creek  
Jim Little, Charlie Lake  
Kirby Cohler, CJDC  
Erica Fisher, Moose FM  
Jill Earl, NorthEast News

**Consultants**

Bill Beamish, W. Beamish Consulting Ltd.  
Catherine Henry, C. Henry Environmental Consulting (CHEC)

- 1) Call to Order                      The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- 2) Adoption of Agenda              SRD/13/3/01  
MOVED by Director Christensen, SECONDED by Director Hiebert,  
that the Peace River Regional District agenda for the March 13, 2013 special meeting,  
including additional handout items for the agenda, be adopted as amended:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Report**  
SR-1 -                      March 13, 2013 – W. Beamish Consulting Ltd. and C. Henry Environmental  
   Consulting – Site C Environmental Impact Statement Review: Interim Report.
4. **Handouts**
  - a) Power Point Presentation – Site C Project EIS Review Interim Report
  - b) Questions Arising – Site C Project EIS Review
5. **Consideration of Regional District’s Site C energy project environmental impact statement application comments to the Joint Review Panel.**
  - a) Introduction                      Fred Banham, CAO
  - b) Opening Remarks                Catherine Henry and Bill Beamish
  - c) Presentation 1                      Bill Beamish
  - d) Presentation 2                      Catherine Henry
  - e) Discussion
  - f) Review Environmental              Fred Banham, CAO  
Review Process and  
Schedule
6. **Adjournment**

**CARRIED**

- 3) Introduction – Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer              In January the Regional Board identified the Site C Environmental Assessment process as its number one priority and engaged Bill Beamish and Catherine Henry, consultants, to assist in the Site C Environmental Impact Study (EIS) application. On January 31, 2013 the Regional District hosted a workshop with members of local government and examined the regional perspective and received presentations of local government issues, concerns, and mitigations resulting from the proposed construction of Site C on the Peace River. In February the Regional District participated in the advisory working group committee and diligently worked through the application. Now the consultants are here to present to the Board draft comments on the EIS application that the Regional District could submit as a member of the advisory committee to the Joint Review Panel no later than April 4, 2013.

Fred then reviewed the phases of the Site C Environmental Assessment process are:

Pre-Panel Stage:

- Guidelines (completed last year)
- Environmental Impact Statement application (in progress)

Introduction – Fred  
Banham, Chief  
Administrative Officer  
(continued)

Panel Review Stage (August 2013):

- A three member panel will look at the application
- Public hearings
- Panel Report to be sent to provincial and federal governments. The panel review stage will take eight months to complete.

4) Opening Remarks –  
Bill Beamish

The objective of this service is to address the 56 concerns raised by the Regional District and to share these findings with the Board such that formal comments may be submitted to the Joint Review Panel.

The complete list of questions is available for viewing on the March 13, 2013 agenda on the Regional District website:

<http://www.prrd.bc.ca/board/meetings/agenda/documents/Cover-NoticeofMtg-Agenda.pdf>

We have had the opportunity to read much of the 15,000 page Site C Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and have toured the Peace River Valley. We will present our findings tonight and take further questions. BC Hydro has done a very thorough job of studying the project and gathering information from the public about public concerns. More work needs to be done to protect the long term interests of the communities. We feel that the value of the environment in terms of its natural capital has been overlooked. The loss of species, wildlife resources, and historically important locations are recognized in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) but no attempt has been made to cost them in terms of their economic or social values. The decision to proceed or not proceed will be a policy decision made by federal and provincial governments based on the conclusion that the power generated by Site C will be the best low cost clean energy alternative, regardless of the irreversible impacts on the environment. However, the province could make a different decision. It is our understanding that the PRRD and local governments in this region have not stated a position in favor of or opposition to the Site C project. The PRRD has participated in the working group and through this and other means have identified concerns about the project. The next stage in the process will provide you with the opportunity to express your opinions and provide additional information to the Joint Review Panel. The final decision will be made in Victoria and Ottawa which will offer another, albeit final, opportunity to ensure your interests are heard. More work needs to be done to ensure that:

- Your long term interests are protected.
- Additional studies are undertaken to address issues raised by you.
- Promises made in the EIS are documented in separate local and regional agreements.
- Adherence to any such agreements is monitored for at least 10 years.
- Sufficient funds are set aside by BC Hydro to establish a joint monitoring committee responsible for ensuring that any unanticipated impacts can be promptly mitigated.

5) Presentation 1 – Bill Beamish Through an in-depth power point presentation Bill Beamish provided an overview of the valued components of the Environmental Impact Statement.

The complete power point presentation is available for viewing on the March 13, 2013 agenda on the Regional District website:

<http://www.prrd.bc.ca/board/meetings/agenda/documents/Cover-NoticeofMtg-Agenda.pdf>

Impacts on Revenues, Services, Infrastructure and Activities

- Local services
- Roads – impact on road systems, traffic delays
- Critical infrastructures
- Water and sewer
- Airport
- Recreation, trapping and guiding
- Noise – effect on residents, wildlife, recreation opportunities
- Tourism
- Heritage sites
- Provincial policing

Impacts on Land and the Environment

- Current use of land for traditional purposes.
- Cumulative effects

6) Presentation 2 – Catherine Henry Catherine Henry completed the power point presentation which focussed on environmental impacts.

- Natural Capital
- Current use of lands and resources
- Vegetation and ecological communities
- Fish and fish habitat - population
- Wildlife resources – Y2Y migration corridor, cumulative effects, winter habitats and birthing sites
- Groundwater
- Land – statutory right of ways, soil capability classification, downstream properties
- Environmental management plans

7) Discussion

A question and answer period ensued with the following points discussed:

- Revenues and costs during the construction phase
- Transporting riprap
- Transportation concerns - impact on road system, disruption to community
- Noise
- Soil type and erosion potential
- New subdivisions
- Expectations of the community
- Oil and gas pipelines, well sites
- Cumulative impacts
- Wildlife
- Fish and fish habitat
- Stressors on infrastructure
- Construction of two new pipelines projected to occur at the same time
- Emergency plans
- North Peace Solid Waste Site

SRD/13/3/02

MOVED by Director Bernier, SECONDED by Director Schembri, that the Regional Board consider the Environmental Impact Statement application and support in principle the Site C Environmental Impact Statement Report going forward to the Joint Review Panel on April 4, 2013, including any additions formally submitted prior to March 21, 2013.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

8) Adjournment

SRD/13/3/03

MOVED by Director Hiebert, SECONDED by Director Nichols, that the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District from a meeting held on March 13, 2013 in the Board Room, Peace River Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, B.C.

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Karen Goodings, Chair

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Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer