



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER SPECIAL BOARD MEETING **MINUTES**

DATE: November 27, 2019

PLACE: Regional District Office Boardroom, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT:

Directors

Chair Sperling, Electoral Area 'C'
Vice-Chair Rose, Electoral Area 'E'
Director Bertrand, District of Tumbler Ridge
Director Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek
Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd
Director Fraser, District of Taylor
Director Goodings, Electoral Area 'B'
Director Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D'

Alternate Directors

Alternate Director Smith, Village of Pouce Coupe

Absent

Director Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
Director Heiberg, District of Hudson's Hope
Director Michetti, Village of Pouce Coupe
Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John

Staff

Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer
Lyle Smith, Chief Financial Officer
Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services
Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager
Kristen Brooke, Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Baddeley, NDIT Intern
Brenda Deliman, Recording Secretary

Others

Ministry of Agriculture – Glen Mielke, Crop Risk Specialist
Ministry of Agriculture – Lori Vickers, Regional Agrologist
North Peace Cattlemen's Association – Russ Newsham
Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association – Judy Madden
Prespatou Farmers Institute – Herman Klassen

Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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SRD/19/11/01

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Hiebert,
That the Peace River Regional District Board agenda for the November 27,
2019 Special meeting be adopted:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Gallery Comments or Questions**
4. **Reports**
 - SR-1 November 18, 2019 – Kelsey Bates, Executive Assistant – Agriculture in the Peace
 - SR-2 November 20, 2019 – Kelsey Bates, Executive Assistant – Notice of Closed Session
5. **Media Questions**
6. **Adjournment**

CARRIED.

REPORTS:

SR-1
November 18, 2019
– Kelsey Bates,
Executive Assistant

AGRICULTURE IN THE PEACE

The Chair invited representatives from local agricultural groups and individual producers to provide their input as to the difficult conditions faced by agricultural producers due to unfavorable weather conditions, and resulting impacts to producers, businesses and residents of the Regional District.

Discussion points and comments included:

- Poor quality of feed
- Number of crops left in the field
- Shortage of straw availability for cattle producers

Director Courtoreille entered the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

- Harvested crops of poor quality, mold
- High cost to dry grain (propane, electricity, wear on equipment)
- Cost to pre-buy fertilizer and seed for the spring. Rates are reduced in the fall, and local producers have cash flow issues
- Ruts in the fields impacting hay removal and spring tillage
- Impacts of disruption of canola seed exports to China
- CN rail (strike, railcar schedule)
- Inability of grain elevators to handle grain drying needs
- Other damage to crops (deer, coyote, mice, skidoos)
- Delay in crop insurance claim payments
- Canola producers eligible for interest-free federal loan of \$400,000, other producers eligible for \$100,000 interest-free loan

REPORTS: (continued)

SR-1 (continued)

AGRICULTURE IN THE PEACE (continued)

The discussion continued. Further points included:

- Carbon tax on any energy required for agricultural production
- Only 50% of insured acres accounted for
- 80-85% of grain acres insured, maximum 20% of forage acres insured.
Various levels of coverage
- Insurance premium costs
- Winter kill in forage crops
- Crop insurance coverage levels vary, up to 80%
- Poor quality hay feed (weaker calves, heavier supplementation)
- Producers selling down herds to meet feed supply
- Crop insurance doesn't apply to pasture
- Feed costs (supplementation, rolling, transportation)
- Road bans (permit obtained by putting bond forward)
- Young farmers facing difficulties

Suggestions for assistance included:

- Cash payout
- Grant for funding to increase mechanical efficiency of dryers
- Expedite crop insurance claim payments
- Increase crop insurance coverage to 100%
- Increase interest-free federal loan to producers from \$100,000 to \$400,00 to match canola producers
- Revamp forage crop insurance to include quality as well as quantity (test feed, probe bales for proper protein results)
- Short term funding for grain purchase, rolling, or transportation
- Request Minister of Agriculture to visit area
- Request policy on winter kill crops
- Lobby to reduce carbon tax and GST for producers
- Lobby for incentives for the installation of natural gas infrastructure

SR-2

November 20, 2019
– Kelsey Bates,
Executive Assistant

NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION

SRD/19/11/02

MOVED Director Hiebert, SECONDED Director Rose,
That the Regional Board recess to a Closed Meeting for the purpose of
discussing the following item:

Agenda Item R-1 – Caribou Leadership Table (CC Section 90(2)(b))

CARRIED.

Recess The Chair recessed the Special meeting to a Closed Session at 2:28 p.m.

Reconvene The Chair reconvened the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the Special meeting at 3:43 p.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District from a Special meeting held on November 27, 2019 in the Regional District Office Board Room, Dawson Creek, BC.

Brad Sperling, Chair

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer