



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

January 19, 2024, 9:00 am

1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

Present: Director Hiebert, Electoral Area D, Committee Chair
Director Kealy, Electoral Area 'B' (via Zoom)
Director Rose, Electoral Area 'E' (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer
Joanne Caldecott, Deputy Corporate Officer
Annette Andrews, Communications Manager
Kari Bondaroff, GM of Environmental Services
Daris Gillis, Environmental Services Manager
Suzanne Garrett, Recorder

Others Present: 5 members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Before calling the meeting to order, the Corporate Officer explained that an election had been held for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Invasive Plant Committee for 2024. She announced that Director Hiebert was elected Chair and Director Rose was elected Vice-Chair. Director Hiebert assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

2. DIRECTORS' NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS

None

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Director Kealy

That the Invasive Plant Committee agenda for January 19, 2024, be adopted.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. DIRECTORS' NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Invasive Plant Committee Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CORRESPONDENCE

9. REPORTS

9.1 2024 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan and Profile, ENV-IPC-015

9.2 Invasive Plant Program 2023 Annual Report, ENV-IPC-016

9.3 Function 520 Invasive Plants Draft 2024 Budget, ENV-IPC-014

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10. NEW BUSINESS

11. DIARY

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2023

12.2 Terms of Reference

13. ADJOURNMENT

CARRIED

4. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

4.1 Deborah Johnson, Agenda Item 9.1

Ms. Johnson expressed concern regarding the use of herbicides containing glyphosate, a common forest practice that may be contributing to the wildfire threat.

4.1 Heather, Agenda Item 9.1

Heather suggested that agencies stop spraying weeds, these plants contain food and medicinal properties.

4.1 Karol Kube, Agenda Item 9.1

Ms. Kube spoke regarding the impact of spray programs on organic farmers, residual spray leaches into topsoil. Chemical spraying should be discontinued, an option would be to teach people the benefits of these plants.

4.1 Gwen Morton, Agenda Item 9.1

Ms. Morton spoke regarding the eradication of weeds. She has tried to determine what chemicals are being used by different agencies but has been unsuccessful. She noted that weeds should not be sprayed but used for their medicinal or food benefits.

Members of the public emailed comments to the Corporate Officer to read aloud during the Gallery Comments or Questions section of the meeting. The Corporate Officer read aloud the comments received from Mike Meiers, Bonnie Goodvin and Carol Kube with the following comments expressed:

- fully in favour of some invasive weed control by spraying roads and any other infested areas,
- this is long overdue with Scentsless Chamomile getting out of control, as a result of mowers spreading noxious weed seeds,
- spraying alternatives for railways to reduce impacts to the environment and wildlife,
- railroad could use community programs to pull noxious weeds along the tracks,
- railroad could provide a donation to charitable organizations, as a fund raiser, to have weeds picked along the tracks,
- demand that local government stop allowing businesses to contaminate our backyards.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Invasive Plant Committee Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Director Kealy

That the Invasive Plant Committee meeting minutes of January 23, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair requested that the General Manager of Environmental Services explain to the Gallery and Directors jurisdictions with respect to chemical spraying. The General Manager of Environmental Services noted that the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) does not spray railways, roadsides, or any other jurisdictions other than PRRD owned or occupied lands.

In response to a question, the General Manager advised that alternative control methods are offered to the public when requested.

9. REPORTS

9.1 2024 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan and Profile, ENV-IPC-015

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Rose

That the Invasive Plant Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the '2024 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan' as presented; further, that the '2024 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan' be published on the Regional District website.

CARRIED

9.2 Invasive Plant Program 2023 Annual Report, ENV-IPC-016

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Director Kealy

That the Invasive Plant Committee receive the 'Invasive Plant Program 2023 Annual Report', which outlines the 2023 annual work plan and what was accomplished by the Peace River Regional District invasive plant management program activities for information; further, that the report be placed on the consent calendar of the next Regional Board meeting for the Board's information.

CARRIED

9.3 Function 520 Invasive Plants Draft 2024 Budget, ENV-IPC-014

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Rose

That the Invasive Plants Committee recommend that the Regional Board include the draft 2024 budget totalling \$97,177 for Function – 520 Invasive Plants, in the 2024 Financial Plan, with an estimated 2024 tax rate of \$0.0023/\$1,000 for this function, which is an estimated taxation decrease of 46.15% from 2023.

CARRIED



10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. DIARY

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2023

12.2 Terms of Reference

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am

Leonard Hiebert, Committee Chair

S. Garrett, Recorder