



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

- Directors Present:
- Chair Hiebert, Electoral Area D
 - Vice-Chair Dober, City of Dawson Creek (via Zoom)
 - Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd
 - Director Hansen, City of Fort St. John
 - Director Graham, Electoral Area B (via Zoom)
 - Director Krakowka, District of Tumbler Ridge
 - Director Quibell, District of Hudson's Hope (via Zoom)
 - Director Rose, Electoral Area E
 - Director Sperling, Electoral Area C
 - Alternate Director Turnbull, District of Taylor
 - Director Veach, Village of Pouce Coupe
 - Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John
- Staff Present:
- Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
 - Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
 - Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer
 - Joanne Caldecott, Deputy Corporate Officer
 - Kari Bondaroff, General Manager of Environmental Services
 - Ashley Murphey, General Manager of Development Services
 - Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Services Manager
 - Daris Gillis, Environmental Services Manager
 - Bryna Casey, Community Services Manager
 - Ryan Kirkham, Protective Services Manager
 - Cody Roberts, Development Services Manager
 - Annette Andrews, Communications Manager
 - Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager
 - Olivia Lundahl, Electoral Area Officer
 - Carmen Willms, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder
- Delegations:
- PRRD Development Services**
Devin Croin, Planner 3 (via Zoom)
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- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.



2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

CW/25/03/01 (20)

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Hansen

That the Committee of the Whole adopt the March 20, 2025 meeting agenda:

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 PRRD Development Services Re: Regional Zoning Bylaw

5. REPORTS

5.1 Board Discussion Re: Emergency and Disaster Management Funding

a. Electoral Area Directors Committee Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2024

b. Electoral Area Directors Committee Recommendations from November 14, 2024, ADM-BRD-555

c. Emergency Management Legislation

6. MEDIA QUESTIONS

7. ADJOURNMENT

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 PRRD Development Services Re: Regional Zoning Bylaw

Ashley Murphey, General Manager of Development Services and Devin Croin, Planner 3 for the Peace River Regional District delivered a presentation titled "Regional Zoning Bylaw" which included the following information:

- Project Background
- Staff Work to Date
- Round 1 Engagement: March 20 - May 30, 2025
- 'What Comes Next?'
- 'What Are Your Priorities for the Regional Zoning Bylaw?'

A question-and-answer period ensued and included:

- Whether the survey could run concurrently with public engagement events. The presenter noted that the survey was the initial step in the engagement process; it was available both online and in print at both Peace River Regional District (PRRD) offices. She also noted that authorization of the project had been received in the fall of 2024 and the transition of the project into a regional bylaw was anticipated to be a complex process.
- The suggestion was made to proceed directly to 'in-person engagement' following the survey process before the draft proposal based on the public's feedback is presented to the Regional Board.
- The suggestion was made to focus on accessory building floor area and accessory dwelling units, as these are often the subject of Development Variance Permit applications brought before the Regional Board.
- Whether the budget would change if 'in-person engagement' was added. The presenter noted that the cost of public engagement would increase though there would be flexibility as the project was being completed in-house and had not been contracted out. She noted the importance of breaking the public engagement process up to avoid overwhelming residents.

4.1 PRRD Development Services Re: Regional Zoning Bylaw (Cont'd)

- Whether the second round of public engagement would include 'pop-up' booths at different community events. The presenter explained that 'pop-up' events were being considered though they were not yet on the calendar.
- The concern that amalgamation of the existing zoning bylaws into one zoning bylaw would not reflect the differences in the needs and wants of the various communities and rural areas.
- The importance of communication with the residents regarding the Regional Zoning Bylaw. Directors noted with appreciation that social media, radio ads, and the newspaper would be utilized to reach the broadest audience.
- The budget of the project. Staff noted that they were proceeding with the project based on direction received from the Regional Board to begin work on a Regional Zoning Bylaw and this presentation was considered the first step in the process and a project budget had been included.
- The presenter noted that engagement would be through radio ads, newspaper ads including the Alaska Highway News and the Northern Horizon, events, and word-of-mouth. She specified that in-person events would be tailored to each community to ensure that the feedback received was relevant.

The Chair thanked the PRRD Development Services staff for their presentation.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Board Discussion Re: Emergency and Disaster Management Funding

CW/25/03/02 (20)

MOVED Director Veach

SECONDED Director Krakowka

That the Regional Board receive the item titled "Board Discussion regarding Emergency and Disaster Management Funding" and attachments for discussion.

CARRIED

Directors discussed concerns regarding the lack of clear regulations and the additional financial burden that the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* placed on the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). They deliberated over the different methods of financing the obligations placed on the PRRD by the Province, specifically regarding efficiency and regional collaboration. Directors contemplated the role of member municipalities and whether financial cooperation with the rural areas was feasible.

Directors recognized the limitations in being able to fully discuss the financial burden of Emergency Management due to the uncertainty of future regulations. Staff noted that the finalized regulations were anticipated by 2027 according to recent meetings with provincial staff. Directors emphasized the importance of being proactive and finding ways to streamline emergency management processes, though some indicated that having clear regulations in place was essential before committing resources.

6. MEDIA QUESTIONS

7. ADJOURNMENT



The Chair adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 10:55 a.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Peace River Regional District's Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 20, 2025 in the PRRD Board Room, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

Leonard Hiebert, Chair

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

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