



## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

North Peace Rural Roads Initiative

### Rural Roads Task Force Meeting

December 19, 2019 – 6:00 pm

Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre – Fort St. John

#### Task Force Attendance

Art Jarvis	Jim Little
Bob Fedderly	Jim Schilling
Curtis Rogers	Karen Goodings
Dave Heiberg	Rob Fraser
Doug Summer	

#### Task Force Regrets

Brad Sperling
Ernest Wiebe
Lloyd Hayden
Gwen Johansson

#### Consultants

Jackie Kjos
Bruce Mackay
<b>Guest</b>
Dan Davies, MLA

#### Call to Order

Upon completion of the Christmas/appreciation dinner, Director Goodings called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

#### 1. Agenda

A copy of the agenda and was provided to participants. Director Goodings called for additional agenda items. An update on the Montney Coulee and Railway Crossings was added under New Business.

#### 2. Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were circulated and reviewed by participants. Director Goodings called for any errors or omissions – it was noted that Farrell was spelled incorrectly.

*Moved by Jim Schilling to “accept the minutes with the corrections as noted from the June 18th, 2019 Rural Roads Task Force meeting”. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Little CARRIED*

#### 3. Update from Jackie

- The video that was to be prepared for the Finance Committee was not done as they do not watch them, but rather read the content from Hansard transcript
- Jackie provided handouts of 3 key emails that have gone unanswered from Government
  - March 4, 2019 communication with Dave Nikolejsin and Garth Thoroughgood
  - October 9, 2019 email string with Carly Leverman, Minister Trevena’s assistant
  - October 15, 2019 email to Dave Nikolejsin, Garth Thoroughgood, Kevin Richter, Scott Maxwell and Renee Mounteney.
- Beryl Prairie Road: Jackie to share technical report done by Bruce with MoTI and task force. Katie Ward indicated she did not know that there were problems with the Beryl Prairie road when she reviewed the draft newsletter. In addition to O&G use by Petronas, Enbridge, TransCanada and Macro, BC Timber Sales are laying out several years of blocks at Chinaman Lake which should start hauling next fall. Recommendation to formalize continued concern to Katie Ward – cc to MLA Dan Davies and Transportation Critic Tracy Redies.
- Jackie provided photos and measurements of the new pullout constructed on the Prespatou Road and requested feedback from the task force on the design. The recommendation from the

diverse. vast. abundant.

#### PLEASE REPLY TO:

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task force was that where it could be wider (e.g. 6 m), it would be safer if someone was doing mechanical work, chaining up etc. where the narrow width could increase the probability of being struck by a passing vehicle. However, task force supports continuing to develop where utility movement and land acquisition can be avoided to minimize cost and maximize pullouts.

#### 4. Current Strategy

- a) Jackie provided a high-level overview of some research she had conducted at the request of the Directors to see if there are other delivery models for rural roads other than the current. The four western provinces all have different governance models (regional districts, specialized municipalities, rural/urban/northern municipalities, improvement districts and there are a number of different provincial/regional advocacy/alliance models, (e.g. UBCM in BC and rural municipality organizations in AB and SK.) There are research agencies in both Montana and Alaska.
- b) Of note in the Federal research, in the mandate letter for the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities includes *all provinces and territories to identify and approve all of their long-term infrastructure priorities within the next two years. Funds not designated by 2021 will be allocated directly to communities via Gas Tax*. The task force recommends that we meet with MP Bob Zimmer and Transportation Critic MP Todd Doherty (Cariboo/Prince George). (note: *Luc Berthold is the Infrastructure and Communities critic from Mégantic—L'Érable, QC*). The purpose of the meeting would be to influence having a rural road Federal Program (which would have to be applied for and matched by the Provinces).
- c) General consensus from the task force included:
  - we need to continue work under our current strategy (vs. alternatives discussed above) despite modest success such as retaining 2019 budget, Milligan/PJ project scope increased from \$100K to \$4 mil and pullout constructed.
  - pressure Premier for support/concern Minister Trevena won't come to the area to meet with us – discussion about timing as Premier Horgan is signalling in the press that a cabinet shuffle will happen in the new year.
  - pressure Kevin Richter to respond with a plan for the rural roads
  - ensure we retain the relationship with Dave Nikolejsin (possibly meeting new ADM)
  - meet with MP's Bob Zimmer and Todd Doherty
  - meet with Scott Maxwell, Katie Ward and Dawson Road Mtce (DRM) early in 2020 ideally in FSJ with the task force like we did last year
  - develop a video to support our message
  - potentially meet with other ministries (Agriculture, Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
  - potential to set up meetings/present video during the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George (Jan 28-30, 2020)

#### 5. New Business

- a) Jim Little gave an update on a meeting the North Pine Farmers Institute had with DRM over options for maintenance on the Montney Coulee where they have agreed that maintaining a section that is in constant motion in a gravel state rather than additional weight from pavement
- b) Jim Little shared a handout regarding an upcoming meeting of the BC Stone Sand and Gravel Association in Fort St. John in January.
- c) The task force discussed the poor alignment of railroad tracks on rural roads. The train from Fort Nelson is now infrequent but there are more frequent train travelling to the North Pine Liquids Separation facility (near the Beaton Airport road). As signaling is unlikely, there may be an opportunity to partner with MoTI, the Federal Government and the PRRD for

realignment. Bruce indicated that the crossing all currently meet the minimum Federal requirements for crossings.

Director Goodings adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Attachments: Emails – 3 (b) and Pullout – 3 (d)