

**MINUTES** of a Regional Board meeting held in the Bear Pit, Town Square, Fort Nelson, BC on Monday, February 25, 2002 at 7:00 PM

**THOSE PRESENT**

Mayor Clarke - Chair  
Director McCartney  
Director C. Morey  
Director Sime  
Director Unruh  
Alt. Director Barr  
Alt. Director Novotny - NRRD  
  
Director Bumstead - Absent  
Director Allen - Absent

**STAFF**

Pat Bailey - Administrator  
Randy McLean - Treasurer  
Debbie Walker - Regional Secretary  
Heather Brown - Deputy Regional Secretary  
Sylvia Hayes - Recording Secretary

**PUBLIC/MEDIA**

Alt. Director Blake - NRRD  
Shelley Middleton

1. Call to Order  
A quorum being present, Chair Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:04PM and proceeded with the business placed before it.
  
2. Adoption of Agenda  
**MOVED** by Director Sime, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that the agenda for the February 25, 2002 Regional Board meeting be amended to include the following:
  - ~ Suzanne Rees, Fort Nelson First Nations  
Re: Community Gathering February 22-23, 2002  
Request for Grant-in-aid
  
  - ~ Memorandum from Treasurer/ Deputy Administrator  
McLean Re: Regional Police Funding and Operating

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2. Continued ~ Verbal update from Administrator Bailey regarding Regional Municipality

and thereafter, be adopted for implementation as presented.

**CARRIED**

3. **Minutes for Adoption**  
Regional Board  
February 11, 2002

**MOVED** by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that the minutes from the Regional Board meeting held February 11, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

**CARRIED**

4. Informal Regional Board  
February 7, 2002

**MOVED** by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that the minutes from the Informal Regional Board meeting held February 7, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

**CARRIED**

5. **Information Packages**  
Council/Board Information Package  
February 15, 2002

**MOVED** by Alternate Director Barr, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that the Council/Board Information Package dated February 15, 2002 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

Administration was requested to write a letter to Air North advising that the Board for the Northern Rockies Regional District invites Air North to consider utilizing the Fort Nelson Airport as another stop for passengers traveling to Edmonton and Calgary.

It was noted that a recommendation regarding Air North would be forthcoming from the Airport Advisory Committee.

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6. Council/Board Information Package  
February 22, 2002 **MOVED** by Alternate Director Barr, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that the Council/Board Information Package dated February 22, 2002 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding the Northern Health Authority Peace Liard Drinking Water Status Report for 2001:

~ the Health Officer requested the notice be placed at Mile 292 Subdivision regarding the drinking water in that area

It was inquired why the report does not indicate that the Mile 292 water is unsafe to drink.

Administrator Bailey responded that the report is concerning water aesthetics only. She advised that the residents of the Mile 292 subdivision have water test results for their area from the Town of Fort Nelson.

It was noted that there are more recent water test results available at the Town Office.

- Petitions/Delegations**  
7. 2002 Budget Process,  
Public Question and  
Answer Period  
There were no questions for the 2002 Budget process, Public Question and Answer Period.

- Correspondence**  
8. City of Quesnel  
Re: North Central Municipal  
Association AGM and Conference,  
May 2 - 4, 2002, Quesnel, BC  
Confirmation of Attendees \*This item was deferred to the March 11, 2002 Regional Board meeting.

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9. Peace River Regional District  
Re: Letter to Minister of Sustainable  
Resource Management, Regarding  
Pre-tenure Planning in the  
Muskwa-Kechika Management Area,  
for Consideration      **MOVED** by Director Sime, **SECONDED** by Director C.  
Morey that the letter from the Peace River Regional  
District regarding the letter to the Minister of  
Sustainable Resource Management regarding Pre-  
tenure Planning in the Muskwa-Kechika Management  
Area dated January 28, 2002 be received for  
information.

**CARRIED**

**Committee Reports**

10. Industrial Diversification Committee  
February 5, 2002      **MOVED** by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director C.  
Morey that the Industrial Diversification Committee  
minutes dated February 5, 2002 be received for  
information.

**CARRIED**

11. Informal Agriculture Policy Committee  
February 6, 2002      **MOVED** by Director C. Morey, **SECONDED** by  
Alternate Director Barr that the Informal Agriculture  
Policy Committee minutes dated February 6, 2002 be  
received for information.

**CARRIED**

**Operating Reports**

12. Treasury Department (McLean)  
January 31 -  
February 12, 2002      **MOVED** by Director McCartney, **SECONDED** by  
Director C. Morey that cheques numbered 41180  
through to 41281, dated January 31 - February 12,  
2002 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

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**Administration Reports**

13. Memorandum from  
Deputy Administrator/Treasurer McLean  
Re: Regional Police Funding  
and Operating

Treasurer McLean advised that he and Administrator Bailey were invited to a 3M Committee meeting in Victoria to be held within the next few weeks.

Discussion ensued regarding Treasurer McLean's Memorandum on Regional Police Service Delivery and Funding with the following being noted:

- ~ the 3M Committee is trying to create a formula for determining Regional Policing costs before the Province creates its own formula in hopes that the province would use the recommendation from the 3M Committee
- ~ funding for Regional Policing could be done Regionally, or the Peace River Regional District and the Northern Rockies Regional District could pay for policing separately
- ~ other regions are monitoring North Eastern BC
- ~ the Regional District needs to investigate and identify a taxation structure for implementation of a Single Tier Government(Regional Municipality concept)
- ~ it was suggested that the Northern Rockies Regional District should join strategic forces with the Peace River Regional District regarding Regional Policing as their ideals are similar

**MOVED** by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that Administrator Bailey and Treasurer McLean or their designates be authorized to attend the 3M Committee meeting in Victoria, all expenses paid.

**CARRIED**

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13. Continued

**MOVED** by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director Sime that Treasurer McLean or his designate be authorized to attend ALL upcoming 3M Committee meetings as necessary, all expenses paid.

**CARRIED**

\*Director McCartney exited the meeting at 7:28 PM.

\*Alternate Director Novotny joined the meeting at 7:28 PM.

It was noted that a Representative from the Board for the Northern Rockies Regional District should attend all 3M Committee meetings.

**MOVED** by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director Sime that Chair Clarke, and Director C. Morey or their designates be authorized to attend ALL upcoming 3M Committee meetings, all expenses paid.

**CARRIED**

14. Admin Report #18/02  
Re: TOWN & REGIONAL DISTRICT  
FACILITIES - Town Square,  
Fire Hall/Public Works Shop and  
Recreation Centre, Cost Estimate  
to Establish Smoking Areas,  
For Review

\*This item was deferred to the Capital Budget Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2002.

15. Admin Report #17/02  
Re: MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTHORITY  
- Financial Forum & Annual Meeting,  
March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, Victoria

**MOVED** by Director Morey, **SECONDED** by Director Sime that Treasurer Randy McLean or his designate, be authorized to attend the MFA Financial Forum & AGM in Victoria on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, all expenses paid.

**CARRIED**

**New Business/Verbal Status Reports**

15. Single Tier Government  
Verbal Update from  
Administrator Bailey

Administrator Bailey advised on discussion with Derek Trimmer, Director of Local Government Structure, he advised that the Liberal Government does not have a problem with the political structure of Single Tier Government for Fort Nelson and the Regional District, and it could be achieved under the current legislation. She noted that with the creation of different boundaries taxation issues will occur and the province doesn't have the answers as to the taxation structure.

She noted that regardless, Regional Policing would proceed and be implemented by the Provincial Government; however, solutions as to how it will be implemented need to be addressed by either the Provincial Government or from the 3M Committee.

It was mentioned that decisions the Provincial Government makes regarding Regional Policing could impact how quickly a Single Tier Government could be implemented.

Administrator Bailey advised that further work must be completed on the taxation structure regarding the impacts of all the Regional District services and the province as a whole including residential and industry taxation impacts.

It was suggested that funding be allocated in the operating budget to prepare a report regarding a Single Tier Government taxation formula.

It was noted that assistance from an experienced consultant company such as Siemens & Adams, may be required to compile the report.

The municipal election would be held in November and if a Single Tier Government were established prior to the election, it would be an asset in respect to the elected official structure of a regional municipality.

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15. Continued
- It was suggested that the Provincial Government be approached prior to the November 2002 Municipal election, to remove the boundary lines for the Regional District and leaving the taxation structure the same until details have been determined.
- It was noted that Council and Board members need to be knowledgeable about how the Town and Regional District taxation system and government structure works so information can be accurately disseminated to the public.
16. Resolution for Adoption, Each Meeting: Town Council Decisions, Excluding InCamera, Adopted for Implementation
- MOVED** by Director Sime, **SECONDED** by Director C. Morey that the decisions of the meeting of the Town Council, excluding InCamera, as held preceding this meeting of the Regional Board be adopted for implementation.
- CARRIED**
17. Subjects for Municipal Bulletin
- Administrator Bailey advised she would prepare an article regarding the Regional Policing concept to provide citizens with in depth information on a regional service delivery model.
18. Subjects for Radio Call In Show
- It was noted that Long Term Strategies and the economic diversification launch would be discussed at the March 1, 2002 radio program.
19. Meeting with Ministry of Transportation February 27, 2002 at 5:00 PM
- Director Unruh, Director C. Morey, Director Allen, Alternate Director Barr, Alternate Director Novotny, Alternate Director Blake and Chair Clarke advised that they would be available to attend the February 27, 2002 meeting with Ministry of Transportation at 5:00 PM.

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20. Meeting with Superintendent  
Mike Morris, RCMP  
February 27, 2002  
at 7:00 PM

Chair Clarke, Director Unruh, Director Allen, Director C. Morey, Director McCartney, Alternate Director Novotny, Alternate Director Blake and Alternate Director Barr advised that they would be available to attend the February 27, 2002 meeting with Superintendent Mike Morris, RCMP at 7:00 PM.

Discussion ensued regarding the meeting with Superintendent Mike Morris, RCMP. It was noted that the Board should query the RCMP about whether Highway Patrol would be included in the Regional Policing service delivery and whether these Highway Patrol Officers would respond to calls in the Regional District if an incident occurred and an officer was needed.

21. Statutory Appointments &  
Acting Positions  
For Adoption

**MOVED** by Director C. Morey, **SECONDED** by Director Sime that the following persons be appointed to the position and acting capacity effective February 25, 2002 unless otherwise noted:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Appointee/Acting</b>
Deputy Regional Secretary	Heather Brown Acting: Debbie Walker

**CARRIED**

22. Councillor/Director C. Morey  
NFPA Communications & Community  
Relations Committee

Director C. Morey advised the NFPA conference scheduled for March 8, 2002 had been canceled.

23. Director Sime  
Municipal Finance  
Authority

Director Sime advised he would be attending a Municipal Finance Authority meeting March 26 & 27, 2002.

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24. Director Sime  
Muskwa Kechika  
Advisory Board

Director Sime noted at the last Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board meeting, it was reported that the Deputy Minister had advised funding to the Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board had been cut by \$2 Million.

Director Sime also advised the Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board's Program Manager position was open, as Paul-Mitchell Banks announced his resignation effective March 15, 2002.

He noted pre tenure planning had been started for different areas in the Muskwa Kechika.

25. Director Sime  
Northwest Corridor  
Development Corporation

Director Sime advised he would be attending a Northwest Corridor Development Corporation meeting February 28, 2002 in Prince George.

26. Suzanne Rees, Fort Nelson First Nations  
Re: Community Gathering,  
February 22-23, 2002  
Request for Grant In Aid

**MOVED** by Director C. Morey, **SECONDED** by Director Unruh that the Fort Nelson First Nations request for a Grant-In-Aid for the rental of 100 chairs at \$1.20 per chair for the Community Gathering held February 22-23, 2002 be granted, with said funds to come from the 2002 Discretionary Grant-In-Aid budget.

**CARRIED**

27. Resolution for Adoption,  
InCamera Meeting

**MOVED** by Director C. Morey, **SECONDED** by Alternate Director Barr that the public be excluded from the February 25, 2002 InCamera Sessions of the Town of Fort Nelson Council and the Northern Rockies Regional District Board meetings, as the aforementioned meetings pertain to Section 242.2(e)(h)(j).

**CARRIED**

**Public/News/Media Question & Answer Period**

28. Muskwa Kechika Management Area  
Pre-Tenure Planning  
Request for Clarification Ms. Shelley Middleton requested clarification regarding the Besa Prophet pre tenure planning carried out by the Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board.
- Director Sime advised that 75% of the Muskwa Kechika Management area is open to resource extractions, but a pre-tenure agreement must be in place first. He advised that any roads built for resource extraction must be removed upon completion of the extraction and the area returned to its former condition.
- Director Sime advised when resource extraction was done in the Chicken Creek area, upon completion of the resource extraction the area was returned so close to its former condition that from the air it was unknown where the road had been built for resource extraction.
- Ms. Middleton advised the Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board does not want tourist traffic in the area; therefore, she feels that resource extractions should not be allowed either.
29. Adjournment **MOVED** by Director C. Morey, **SECONDED** by Director Unruh that the February 25, 2002 Regional Board meeting be declared adjourned at 8:08 PM.

**CARRIED**

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**CERTIFIED** a true and correct copy of the minutes of a Regional Board meeting held on Monday, February 25, 2002.

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Harry Clarke, Mayor/Chair

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Debbie Walker, Regional Secretary

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Sylvia Hayes, Recording Secretary