



Meeting Notes Notes from RBA Committee Meeting

Friday, March 24, 2017
1:15 p.m.

1. Attendance

Barry Pages, RBA Vice-Chair, Presided

Jessica McCallum-Miller, Electoral Area C, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Ted Ramsey, Electoral Area E, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Sean Bujtas, City of Terrace, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Lynne Christiansen, City of Terrace, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Suanne Ciampichini, Electoral Area F, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Dave Brocklebank, Electoral Area D, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Philip Germuth, District of Kitimat, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Gail Lowry, District of New Hazelton, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Galina Durant, District of Stewart, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Alice Maitland, Village of Hazelton, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Harry Nyce, Electoral Area A, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Linda Pierre, Electoral Area B, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Greg Martin, Village of Queen Charlotte, North Coast Regional District

Doug Daugert, Village of Port Clements, North Coast Regional District

Michael Racz, Electoral Area D, Masset, Skidegate, North Coast Regional District

Des Nobles, Electoral Area A, North Coast Regional District

Karl Bergman, Electoral Area C, North Coast Regional District

Barry Cunningham, City of Prince Rupert, North Coast Regional District

Nelson Kinney, City of Prince Rupert, North Coast Regional District

Bill Bedessi, Electoral Area E, North Coast Regional District

Brad Layton, Village of Telkwa, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Rob Newell, Electoral Area G, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Shane Brienen, District of Houston, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Mark Fisher, Electoral Area A, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Carol Leclerc, Mayor, City of Terrace

Bob Marcellin, CAO, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Heather Avison, CAO, City of Terrace

Verna Wickie, Treasurer, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Yvonne Koerner, Deputy Treasurer, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Renee Lukasser, Confidential Secretary, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

By Telephone:

Bill Miller, RBA Interim Chair

Darcy Repen, Village of Telkwa, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area F, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Daniel Fish, Corporate Officer, North Coast Regional District

Dave MacDonald, District of Port Edward, North Coast Regional District

Wendy Hunt, CAO, District of New Hazelton

Melany de Weerd, CAO, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Rod Holland, CAO, Village of Fraser Lake

Sheryl Worthing, CAO Village of Burns Lake
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

MOVED by Bill Bedessi/Brad Layton that the March 24, 2017 Resource Benefits Alliance Meeting Agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried.

1. Minutes

MOVED by Des Nobels/Brad Layton that the Notes from the January 20, 2017 be amended to include Bill Bedessi, Electoral Area E, North Coast Regional District under attendance and be accepted as amended.

Carried.

2. Update:

Interim Chair Bill Miller gave an update and summary of the meetings and discussions at the Premier's BC Natural Resource Forum in Prince George, B.C.:

- Chair Bill Miller, Mayor Carol Leclerc, Mayor Alice Maitland and RDBN's CAO, Melany deWeerd met with Gareth Manderson, General Manager British Columbia Works at Rio Tinto, Kevin Dobbin, Manager Communities and Communications Service at Rio Tinto and Lianne Olson, Community Relations Liaison at Rio Tinto Alcan. Rio Tinto was shocked that the communities were not receiving fair share from the government from industry revenues. Rio Tinto will send a letter of support for RBA. They will also bring RBA forward at meetings with the Province and discuss the positive impact revenue sharing would have on the communities.
- Met with New Gold and reiterated who RBA is and gave an update as to how RBA is progressing. Asked New Gold for a letter of support and they in turn asked for support from involved areas for their upcoming Environmental Assessment.
- Met with previous employee of Premier's office who is now a lobbyist. She advised to get someone to work on RBA full time. She suggests it is not at the lobbying stage yet and it should still be handled in current fashion.

RBA is hoping to connect with the Province at the upcoming CAO/Chair Forum and get an update as to where they are in the process of reviewing the RBA proposal. Intent is to put pressure on province staff to advance the review promised by the Minister.

John Rustad contacted Bill Miller and said he would not respond himself to the RBA's letter requesting support from candidates and would leave it to the Province to respond.

MOVED by Shane Brienen/Barry Cunningham that the Update from Vice Chair Miller be received for information.

Carried.

3. Draft MOU Amendment

MOVED by Bill Bedessi/Shane Brienen that the Memorandum of Understanding Amendment March 24, 2017, be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Letter from Minister Fassbender, Re: RBA

MOVED by Mark Fisher/Michael Racz that the letter from Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for TransLink, dated March 16, 2017, regarding RBA Letter, dated January 24, 2017 and Report on Fair Revenue Sharing for Northwest British Columbia, be received for information.

Carried.

5. Letter sent to MLA Candidates with List of Recipients

MOVED by Brad Layton/Mark Fisher that the template letter sent to MLA Candidates with List of Recipients attached, be received for information.

Carried.

Philip Germuth said he spoke to Ellis Ross, BC Liberal, Skeena candidate and he was not supportive of RBA, but then later spoke to some supporters that showed interest, so he is hoping they will discuss this further with Ellis Ross.

6. Letters to Smithers Interior News

MOVED by Shane Brienen/Des Nobels that the letters to Smithers Interior News from Darcy Repen, Mayor of Telkwa and Doug Donaldson, MLA for Stikine, regarding RBA and Revenue Sharing be received for information.

Carried.

7. Email for John A. Chapman, re: NWRBA Another Socialist Group

MOVED by Taylor Bachrach/Ted Ramsey that the email from John A. Chapman, dated March 20, 2017, regarding NWRBA is Another Socialist Group that Adds More Road Blocks to Development, be received and to invite Mr. Chapman to a NWRBA meeting.

Carried.

8. Email from Kitimat LNG re: Support for RBA

MOVED by Taylor Bachrach/Rob Newell that the email from David Molinski, Policy and External Relations Lead for Chevron Canada Ltd., dated March 23, 2017, regarding Kitimat LNG Support for RBA, be received for information.

Carried.

9. Letter from Jon Rempel, Candidate for MLA Nechako-Lakes, re Support for RBA

MOVED by Des Nobels/Barry Cunningham that the letter from Jon Rempel, Candidate for MLA Nechako-Lakes 2017, BC Libertarian Party, dated March 13, 2017, regarding Support for RBA, be received and to send a thank you letter.

Carried.

10. Discussion/Points of Consideration Raised around the table/Next Steps:

- Put pressure on candidates at debates and functions to state whether they are in support of RBA.
- May have to go into the candidate's office as it is not easy to ask questions in a public forum anymore.
- Publish letters of support on RBA website and in newspapers for the public to see.
- Do we follow up if candidates are not responding to letter?
- Do we hire a public relations company to bring RBA to the Province and public's attention?
- Tell the electorate that revenue sharing will lower taxes.
- Right now RBA's main communications state that the north has an infrastructure deficit, but the public does not understand what this is. Moving forward, RBA should project a breakdown of infrastructure needs and show allotment of taxes that would be needed to deal with the infrastructure and then show the breakdown if there was a revenue sharing agreement.
- Industry is not educated that communities are not getting money from the province from industry revenues. We need to educate industry, businesses, public and ourselves.
- Use website more and utilize local papers and newsfeeds. Call candidates out on their position and energize the public.
- Why are some documents In Camera if we want the public to know?
- Have a public campaign. Write letters to the editor. Full page ad on behalf of RBA in the newspapers. State that NWRHD is expected to pay 40% of Mills Memorial Hospital replacement, when they can only afford 20% as an example.
- Series of press releases with these examples while election campaign is running.
- Simple comparison of Telkwa and District of Taylor. Same size, same population, both primarily resource based. Yet Taylor has Peace River Agreement and their services and infrastructure far exceed Telkwa.
- Concerns expressed that until RBA is cleared up, Mills Memorial replacement funds might not flow from the Province.
- Use Social media.
- Should not lump Mills Memorial Hospital replacement and RBA together.
- It was noted that Rob Botterell of Lidstone and Company is back from a sabbatical and will be taking on the RBA file again.
- There should be a committee consisting of Chairs and possibly others to work on a communication strategy.
- Send letter to BC Chamber of Commerce AGM, May 24-27, 2017.
- NCLGA Convention May 3-5, 2017. Put RBA on the agenda and RBA should have a booth at the convention.
- Inundate election candidates with the same message from all Regional Districts and Municipalities, not just from the RBA committee.

MOVED by Rob Newell/Mark Fisher to bring all meetings for Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance out of In Camera.

Carried.

MOVED by Mark Fisher/Michael Racz to authorize Shane Brien, Carol Leclerc, Alice Maitland, Darcy Repen, Rob Newell, RBA Chairs and CAO's to form a short term communication strategy working group, working with Rob Botterell, Lidstone & Co. to focus on a social media and traditional media statement that elected officials can use, a concept for a group wide advertisement in newspapers and a strategy on how we can approach candidates in the election; and that there be a working group for a short to mid term communications strategy.

Carried.

MOVED by Barry Cunningham/Rob Newell that the Draft letter to Chamber of Commerce, regarding Support for RBA, be accepted and authorize Administration to send letter to the Northwest Chambers.

Carried.

MOVED by Des Nobels/Rob Newell that the next meeting be held Friday, May 26, 2017 directly following the North West Regional Hospital District Board meeting at the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine Board Room.

Carried.

MOVED by Taylor Bachrach/Shane Brien that the meeting be adjourned.

Vice Chair Barry Pages adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.