



Director's Corner

Wells Gray Country-Electoral Area 'A'

TNRD

TNRD BOD's Meeting Highlights Feb 26, 2009

Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Committee met at 10:00AM, with first on the agenda being election of the Chair and Vice Chair. Andy Anderson, Village of Ashcroft Mayor, was elected by acclamation as the Chairman. The Vice Chair position required a vote and I am pleased to say I was elected as Vice Chair of the committee.

Staff made several presentations regarding the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The most significant one was on compaction relating to trucking costs of recyclable materials. The report indicated that if a central compaction station was implemented then a cost savings of over \$700,000 per year could be realized. I put forward the following motion:

"Staff to investigate options for establishing an interim compaction facility in the central TNRD area and report back to the committee with these options."

This was carried unanimously. Since the proposed structure would be built with lock blocks and a fabric building it will be portable. With that in mind an interim site can be established this year and later be easily relocated to a more permanent larger site. In future, on site processing and sorting may be incorporated. This will also allow us to directly market recycled materials and keep the work local as opposed to the current system of shipping materials to Kelowna for processing. Added benefits will be cost savings to the taxpayers and increased local employment.

Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops came before the TNRD Board requesting \$3000 in funding from the Electoral Area Directors. This has been done in the past and was once again approved this year. The funds will come from a \$20,000 combined grant pool where each Electoral Area contributes \$2000 annually. The city of Kamloops contributes \$152,000 annually to the Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops.

A Development Variance Permit application relating to the establishment of a slaughterhouse in the rural area near Merritt was before the board. Current bylaws require a 300 meter setback from neighboring properties. The applicant wished to vary this down to 88 meters. The 300 meter setback is there to protect neighboring property owners from the obvious negative impacts from a slaughterhouse operation. The Variance permit was denied in order to maintain this protection. The applicant does own a large enough property to allow construction of a slaughterhouse elsewhere on the property. A facility is needed in the area. Hopefully the applicant will continue to develop a slaughterhouse at another location on the property which is more suited and meets the TNRD zoning bylaw requirements.

Greyhound Canada is proposing to reduce service from Cache Creek and points North on highway 97 to once daily instead of the current twice daily service. This is a needed service that serves the majority of northern BC and currently operates at near capacity, often with a need for extra busses to be added in order to meet the demand. The TNRD Chairman, at request of the board will be sending a letter to BC Passenger Transportation Board opposing this service cut.

Mr. Gord Radcliffe, RPF, of Clearwater has made an application through the provincial 'Job Opportunities Program' for funding to carry out trail improvement work in Wells Gray Provincial Park. If the application is successful the project will employ 5-7 people for several months this year with the added benefit of up to \$500,000 spent locally improving our local park trails. The Job Opportunities Fund is in place to assist displaced forestry workers. The TNRD will be sending a letter of support for this application.

The Southern Interior Local Government Association convention will be taking place in Osoyoos the end of April. Thursday was our last board meeting to input resolutions to SILGA. I put forward the following motion:

“That a resolution be submitted to the Southern Interior Local Government Association requesting that the provincial highways maintenance contractors performance incentive program be divided into two parts, with 40% applying to summer operations and 60% applying to winter operations. This will result in continued diligence regarding winter operations when a contractor becomes aware that due to poor summer maintenance operations they will not be receiving the annual performance incentive bonus”.

This motion was carried unanimously and at this point is the only TNRD resolution being put forward to SILGA. If enacted this policy should lead to improved road maintenance and provincial highways maintenance contractor diligence throughout the year. Emphasis was put on winter operations as, from a safety standpoint, winter maintenance has a much greater impact than that of summer operations.

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Disclaimer: These comments are personal comments of Wells Gray Country Electoral Area 'A' Director Tim Pennell and in no way reflect the comments, opinion or position of the Thompson Nicola Regional District Board of Directors