



Director's Corner

Wells Gray Country-Electoral Area 'A'

TNRD

TNRD BOD's Meeting Highlights April 23, 2009

Having no committee meetings in the morning I took advantage of the time to meet with Lyle Huntley, TNRD Clerk/Director of Community Services. We discussed having a mutual aid agreement between Clearwater and Vavenby fire departments. Mr. Huntley will investigate establishing a mutual aid agreement between the two fire departments to see if it is possible and proceed from there. Also a Federal Gas Tax Grant to replace the furnace and hot water heater at the Blackpool Fire Hall was discussed. The application for up to \$14,000 funding will be put to the TNRD Board of Directors for approval in the very near future.

Over lunch I met with Peter Hughes, TNRD Director of Environmental Services to discuss various potable water supply options for both the Blackpool Community Hall and the Blackpool Fire Hall. A decision on the preferred option should be forthcoming in the next 4-6 weeks.

Former Area B Director, Stephen Quinn has submitted his resignation to the Thompson Okanogan Roads and Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) The TNRD Board has decided to let RTAC and the minister select a new member from three that will be submitted from the TNRD. Myself, as the Area 'A' Wells Gray Country representative, Mayor Mike Fennell of Barriere and Director Lentz of Area B will be submitting our names for consideration.

The TNRD Board of Directors has approved a 3 year extension of the current landfill and operations contract with Oatway Contracting Ltd. Normally a contract such as this would go to public tender however Oatway's original contract did allow for up to a 5 year extension. With the Solid Waste Management Plan currently undergoing significant changes and the current economy somewhat unstable it was felt that an extension of the existing contract is in the best interest of the regional taxpayers.

Energy saving upgrades to the North Thompson Sportsplex will be undertaken over the next 2 months. These projects are eligible for Federal Gas Tax Credit funding. Rather than utilize the entire amount of budgeted funds from the rural area I have opted to utilize up to \$25,000 in Federal Gas Tax Grants as part of the Electoral Area 'A' funding contribution. Although no other significant projects are planned I felt that retaining \$25,000 that could be used on any other Sportsplex project to prudent. Gas Tax grants may not be eligible for other projects. If the remaining budgeted funds are unused they will be carried forward to 2010 which will reduce taxation required for that year.

After the board meeting Mayor Harwood and I met with CAO Greg Toma and Director of Finance Sukh Gill to discuss septage disposal in the North Thompson. Staff will be contacting TRU Consulting directly to determine costs of adding this much needed facility to the District of Clearwater's upgraded facilities. Once costs are determined and if we proceed, appropriate funding solutions can be determined. This may include neighboring electoral areas.

Tim Pennell
TNRD Director Area 'A'
Wells Gray Country
(H) 250-676-9485
Email tnrd.director@gmail.com
Website www.wellsgraycountry.ca

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