



Director's Corner

Wells Gray Country-Electoral Area 'A'

TNRD

TNRD BOD's Meeting Highlights September 3rd, 2009

The TNRD EOC (Emergency Operation Centre) has been extremely busy as of late due to the wildfire situation during the month of August. Staff has utilized the TNRD boardroom for EOC operations and due to this the Thursday board meeting was held at the Executive Inn. Greg Toma, TNRD CAO started the meeting off with a presentation to the board on the TNRD involvement with wildfire activities. To say the least it has been substantial and the dedication of our staff is very much appreciated. On the plus side any overtime costs incurred, which is substantial, are being covered by the province via PEP funding. Daytime staffing is absorbed by the TNRD. The only downside to this is that the significant staff time the EOC has absorbed has lead to some delays in completing other TNRD projects. I have full confidence in our staff and while we will be playing catch up though the fall and winter I feel we will still be able to complete items in a timely manner.

Once again Greyhound Canada is proposing significant cuts, this time at a national level, involving the province of Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. The TNRD BOD will be sending a strongly worded objection to both provincial and federal governing agencies. Rural communities will suffer significantly if the proposed cuts to service are allowed to take place. Additionally, losing the ability to have cross Canada bus travel with one carrier would be a huge step backwards for Canada. Students, elderly, disabled individuals, those who must travel for medical treatment and others with lower income would be hardest hit. Losing bus service to rural areas will also mean higher shipping costs for many items.

The TNRD BOD has now adopted a zoning amendment bylaw to allow for an RV storage facility in conjunction with a campground in the Knutsford area. This type of facility is in high demand in the Kamloops area. Earlier in the year during initial presentations to the board of directors several Kamloops residents provided comments to the board in favor of this amendment.

During our upcoming UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) convention I will be meeting with BC Hydro senior staff. During the 2003 wildfire season it became very apparent that our single source power grid in the North Thompson Valley causes serious problems whenever there is a problem on the line to the south of us. In top of that any problem at all on the line initially affects service to the entire line. Several outages over the past year have made it very apparent that this is still an ongoing concern. My hopes are to work with BC Hydro to develop a solution to this issue which will benefit the entire North Thompson Valley with a more reliable service.

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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