

From the “Bear Pit”



Highlights of the April 13, 2016 Council Meeting

Pedestrian Connectivity Strategy

Regional Council viewed a [presentation](#) on the NRRM Pedestrian Connectivity Strategy. In 2015, Public Works embarked on a project to identify and prioritize sidewalks, curbs and gutters as part of the overall Asset Management Plan for the municipality.

The proposed 2016 budget includes \$500,000 for the implementation of the Connectivity Strategy including such proposed locations on:

- 44 Street
- 55 Avenue
- 49 Street

ALSO OF NOTE:

- The three-year [Rural Solid Waste Collection Contract](#) was awarded to First Choice Enviro for an estimated annual cost of \$77,135 plus applicable taxes.
- A legislative requirement, Council adopted [PSAB 3260 Contaminated Sites Accounting and Reporting Policy](#)
- [DP-1602 \(1051236 B.C. Ltd.\)](#) to allow for the update of the exterior on the Provincial Motel was approved.
- Grants-In-Aid Policy
Regional Council is involved in revamping the existing Grant-in- Aid policy with further review at their next meeting. [View more information](#)

Upcoming Chamber Tradeshow April 30/May 1 Mark your Calendar!!

Mayor Streeper and Regional Council will be participating at the NRRM Booth at the 2016 Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce Annual Trade Show. Come out and speak with your Local Government Representatives. Find out what NRRM initiatives your local government is engaged in.

Victoria Meeting with MFLNRO Minister Thomson

Mayor Streeper and Councillor Soles reported on their April 11, 2016 meeting with BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) Minister Thomson to discuss specific aspects of the Forestry Rejuvenation Project.

The delegation was well-received and the minister has committed to providing an advisor to work with the NRRM on a community-based forest agreement. There is potential for an agreement to be reached within six months, given the encouraging support from MFLNRO.



FN Chamber Delegation Re: FortisBC

Mayor Streeper welcomed Ms. Bev Vandersteen, who thanked Regional Council for hearing her delegation and advised she was present to provide an update to the 2014 FortisBC rate amalgamation attempt. At the time, she and Mr. Nick Gretener (a legal specialist from the firm Bennett Jones) had acted as intervenors to halt the amalgamation of natural gas delivery rates across BC, which would have resulted in a 54% increase to the Fort Nelson area. At the time, the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) permitted the amalgamation of the rest of BC and suggested that FortisBC apply to amalgamate Fort Nelson at a later date.

FortisBC is now intending to submit a Fort Nelson Rate Amalgamation application to the BCUC in September, 2016 and plans to hold several education sessions in Vancouver over the next few months.

Ms. Vandersteen was [requesting](#) Council participation at a May 19th information session in Vancouver and for financial support to retain utilities lawyer, Nick Gretener. Regional Council opted to wait until further information is made available this summer.



Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 25th, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.