

Highlights of the Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors Meeting October 11, 2018, Vancouver

Report from the Chair

Chair Colin Hansen reported that there is a lot of work underway by staff, and acknowledged departing Director John Massier's role representing the Cariboo Regional District for the past nine years.

Report from Executive Director

David Marshall highlighted the diversity and extent of projects underway, including: climate change initiatives including electric vehicles and hosting a national climate adaptation conference in February 2020; water projects including the Lower Mainland Flood Strategy; assessment of more than 100 orphan dikes across the province; collaborative watershed work in the Nechako, Shuswap and Nicola watersheds; and flood risk assessment in the Thompson Region; youth initiatives; working to bring salmon back to the Upper Columbia River system; wildlife management strategy; landscape analysis to increase forest resiliency to fires and pests initiative west of Quesnel; and collaborative work in addressing shipping impacts on resident killer whales in the Salish Sea.

2018 Wildfires

Rick Manwaring, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Bill Miller, Chair of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, provided an overview of the 2018 wildfire season. Rick noted the challenge with unpredictability of fire seasons with a changing climate, the need for community resiliency, the new Community Resiliency Investment Program, and implementation of the recommendations from the Abbot-Chapman report. Bill spoke about the number of evacuation orders and alerts, and impacts on the communities and businesses from the wildfires that were concentrated in the Bulkley-Nechako area. Opportunities for collaboration include merging traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) with Western science through traditional burning, and sharing firefighting capacity from other jurisdictions.

Meaningful Consultation

Giovanni Puggioni, Executive Director, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, gave an overview of the current approach to consultation and reconciliation by the provincial government, and the Draft Principles to Guide Relationships that incorporate elements of UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action. Key points were that: certainty is being sought by all parties; courts can impose solutions, but encourage partnerships by all parties involved; and while consultation is an effective mechanism to seek input, accommodation is the important part about how a proponent of a project addresses the concerns heard. The evolution from simple transactional referrals to collaboration, the introduction of revenue sharing agreements, the importance of building relationships first, the diversity of cultures and approaches needed, and that everyone can play a productive and meaningful role to advance reconciliation were discussed.

Committee Reports

The Sustainability Task Committee initiated a review of the 1997 Charter for Sustainability, and sought feedback from Directors. The Governance Committee presented proposed Society Act bylaw revisions that were endorsed by the Directors. The Youth Committee gave an update on recent activities and the Fraser River Heritage River canoe trip.

Audited statements from 2017/18 were approved, and current statements of operations, financial position, a report on trust funds and the investment summary from the Finance Committee were received. A fund development update was provided.

Detailed reports are available from your representative on the board of directors, or from the FBC staff below.

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