



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON Tuesday, July 14, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

PRESENT

Mayor Funk
Councillor Wiebe
Councillor White
Councillor Hill
Councillor Rensby

CAO Worthing
Deputy Corporate Officer V. Anderson

GUESTS

Via Zoom Troy Larden and Conrad Thiessen
LBN Woyenne Councillor Cheyenne Dennis
LBN Deputy Chief Derek MacDonald (6:38)

PUBLIC

One member of the public

MEDIA

None

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Funk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded by Council

2020-07-14: 230

THAT the agenda for July 14, 2020, Special Meeting of Council be approved as presented.

CARRIED

PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS; AND READINGS OR ADOPTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DELEGATIONS

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

None

MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

None

REPORTS

Moose and Caribou Management - *Conrad Thiessen, Sr. Wildlife Biologist, and Troy Larden, Head, Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Division – FLNRORD, Skeena Region*

- From the Skeena Offices, they oversee one-third of the province, including about half of Tweedsmuir Park, Endako is the eastern boundary.
- Conrad Thiessen has vast experience in caribou and wolf management.
- Suggested a webinar to watch, the link will be sent to staff.
- Discussion of the broad strategies outlined in the handout.
- Discussion of species at risk act.
- Adjacent to Burns Lake is the Tweedsmuir- Entiako caribou herd.
- This herd is listed as threatened with less than 200 animals.
- Decline of about 11% per year.
- Increased predation is recognized as one of the causes, also landscape changes, MPB, wildfire, and logging activities.
- There is not a cow-calf moose harvest in the Skeena Region.
- Habitat restoration, prey management, are factors that are considered when implementing management strategies.
- A wolf reduction strategy is based on a 25 km buffer of the caribou herds range.
- Year one of wolf reduction, 88 wolves were removed from the treatment area in 2020. Aerial methods were used.
- 15 wolves are remaining about half of the animals are collared.
- Allows for tracking and recolonization.
- Wolf density was reduced substantially to 1 wolf per 1,000 ha.
- Discussion of the policy decisions.
- Caribou monitoring since the 2014 fires, show 23 active caribou collared in Tweedsmuir.
- Collaring allows a better understanding of how the caribou interact with their habitat.
- Completed in June, a post-calving survey looks like there is a high calf survival rate.
- The Tweedsmuir-Entiako includes management units 6-1 and 6-2.
- Management decisions are made on a management unit scale.

- Discussion of the Tweedsmuir-Entiako herd and general moose numbers in the Lakes District.
- Discussion of the Telkwa Herd.
- Limited entry 6-1 is the Entiako area, south of Eutsik Lake 6-2 is within the Ootsa area.
- Council discussed the moose population decline in the area.
- The ministry has objectives for moose population recovery.
- Caribou and moose recovery do compete against each other, which is a problem for wildlife management.
- Tweedsmuir-Entiako was surveyed in 2013 by helicopter, crews counted distinct blocks of moose, use the survey to extract a population number.
- The last survey was completed in 2019. Surveying is completed every 5 yrs to get trend data.
- Between 2013 and 2019, 2.3 moose/km², bull ratio 32 bull per 100 cows, near the minimum, would like to see the number of bulls higher.
- 6-1 - 26 bulls/100 cows in 6-2 - 45 bulls/100 cows.
- Calf ratio 6-1 - 19 calves/100 cows in 6-2 - 16 calves/100 cows.
- Management unit 6-4 density is 0.46 moose per km² and 22 bulls/100 cows, calf ratio of 32 calves/100 cows
- Population data will be forwarded to staff.
- Bulkley Valley-Lakes District has a useful data set, 2004 had the highest number of estimated moose in the region.
- How did the Nadina fires affect the population?
- Wildfires have a significant impact, and the effect is often not noted until years later.
- Wildfires cause landscape change, which can have negative and positive effects on wildlife.
- Improved habitat values can increase the number of calves per cow, twins and triples has been noted in some areas post-fire.
- No collared moose were not killed due to the fires in the Tweedsmuir-Entiako area
- Discussion of guiding numbers.
- Statistical analysis does not show a decline. There are other objectives to consider, such as the number of cows per bull. Management actions also look at these numbers, not just strictly population. Licenced harvests are based solely on population numbers.
- If the bull population was declining, harvest numbers might change.
- Discussion of caribou management.

- Bull to cow ratio 30 bull per 100 cows would be a sustainable number.
- There are different objectives within the metric.
- Wolf control began this winter, removing wolves has increased the number of moose calves surviving.
- Stats across the province have moose populations in decline.
- The licenced harvest on bulls has decreased.
- Bow only season is down to an LEH bow only season.
- Implemented approval this year is a requirement for compulsory inspection for moose that are harvested. Previously hunters voluntarily participated in a survey, now there is mandatory inspection for moose harvested in the south Skeena.
- Age and area where moose was harvested will be compiled.
- Currently, not actively considering alternate prey management in the Skeena Region.
- The ministry has an objective to build moose populations.
- The ministry does not have all the rail and road mortality data.
- Don't have information for First Nation ceremonial harvesting.
- As we undergo predator management, there is an expectation the moose population will grow.
- LBN Councillor Cheyenne Dennis spoke to the fact that moose harvesting by members has been limited due to low moose numbers. LBN members do not harvest cows and calves.
- The stratified random block surveys are completed in winter to late March.
- Derek Macdonald commented that the moose population needs to be supported. More Elk are coming into the area.
- LBN does not want to see cow/calf as part of the hunt.

Mayor Funk thanked Conrad Thiessen and Troy Larden for their presentation.

BUSINESS ARISING None

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS – ACTION None

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND FILED None

NEW BUSINESS None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE None

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD None

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded by Council

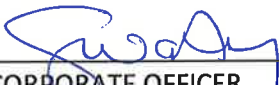
2020-07-14: 231

THAT July 14, 2020, Special Meeting is adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

CARRIED



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council for the Corporation of the Village of Burns Lake held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.