



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON Tuesday, September 07, 2021 AT 5:45 PM

PRESENT

Mayor D. Funk
Councillor K. White
Councillor H. Wiebe
Councillor K. Bjarnason
Councillor C. Rensby
CAO S. Worthing
Director of Public Works D. Ross
Deputy Corporate Officer V. Anderson

GUESTS

Susan Yurkovich, President and CEO, BC Council of Forest Industries
Michael Armstrong, Vice-President, Forestry
Adam McPhee, Manager, Public Affairs

PUBLIC

3 members of the public

MEDIA

Eddie Huband – Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor D. Funk called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm

“On behalf of Council, I would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the area’s Six First Nations.”

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded by Council:

2021-09-07: 290

THAT the agenda for September 7, 2021, Special Meeting (5:45 pm) be approved as presented.

CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, CAO REPORTS – None

REPORTS

Forest Industry Update and Modernization of Forest Policy

- *Susan Yurkovich, President and CEO, BC Council of Forest Industries*
- *Michael Armstrong, Vice-President, Forestry*
- *Adam McPhee, Manager, Public Affairs*

- There will not be a COFI dinner this fall, replaced with virtual meetings with councils.
- Presented numbers as to the value of the forest sector, \$14B in BC over 10 years.
- 100,000 jobs in forestry.
- 1 in 25 jobs in BC are forestry jobs.
- Twenty COFI member companies purchase \$7B in goods and services.
- Discussion of how to move to produce higher-value products.
- Wood fibre is used in many value-added products, including PPE, food boxes, and other packaging options. There is a move to replace single-use plastics with wood-based products.
- Sending 24% of products produced to China.
- Sustainably managed forests, in 2020 was the highest seedling planting year. BC plants 3 to 1 of tree harvested.
- The cut in the interior has been coming down due to the impact of the mountain pine beetle.
- 50,000 ha annually are harvested in the old-growth forest
- BC is a leader in conservation – about 52% of the land base has some form of conservation requirements.
- Over 70% of old-growth forests in BC will never be logged.
- Strong public support for the forest sector.
- Issues include trade issues, access to fibre, regulatory complexity and increased global competition.
- The biggest issue is access to fibre. The investment will be dependent on having dependable access to fibre.
- The increase in global competition is an area of concern for the BC industry.
- Lumber prices have fallen to \$400 from a high of \$1,600
- Price volatility like this has not been seen before.
- See opportunities in consumers seeking low-carbon products.
- Expect announcements of funding for fibre innovation from governments.
- The government's Forest Policy Modernization plans will soon be finalized.
- The technical report will be sent to council by Adam McPhee.
- \$129M spent in Burns Lake by the forest industry.
- The supply chain report is from the end of 2020.
- Are there any initiatives to utilize burnt wood? The key is to get the wood harvested quickly, and it needs to be permitted and harvested promptly.
- There are significant strains on fibre supply after a fire.

- Innovation and technology will assist in utilization. Markets dictate whether there is demand.
- R. Vossen shared that Hampton is still operating at full capacity; other mills in the region have been curtailing operations. Hoping to weather the volatility currently being seen.
- Decker Lake is not as volatile to the 2 x 4 market as other mills.
- S. Yurkovich was asked if COFI was doing anything to assist community forests to keep tabular rates.
- COFI asked for an extension to comment. They did not receive an extension.
- The common issue is going to be access to fibre at a reasonable cost.
- Analysts (Darrell Swetlshaw) say the break-even is \$550/1000 board feet. The cost structure in BC is high.
- Whether you are a community forest or a licensee, access to fibre at a cost that allows for a profitable enterprise is essential.
- The government's plans have everyone on edge.
- Market and environment constraints are difficult for workers.
- There should be vigorous environmental policies, but they need to be acted upon in a timely manner.
- The industry needs to be able to compete in the global market.
- Where does BC see itself in the future?
- BC can take advantage of using technology.
- Communities need to be part of the conversation as to how to continue to be a healthy industry.
- Hope to have an in-person convention in April of 2022.

The mayor thanked the representatives from COFI for the presentation.

BUSINESS ARISING None

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS – ACTION - None

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS – RECEIVED AND FILED - None

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE None

READING FILES None

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD None

RELEASE OF CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION – None


ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded by Council:

2021-09-07: 291

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:50 pm

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, September 07, 2021