

DRAFT

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Meeting Notes

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP

DATE: January 20, 2010
TIME: 1:30 pm
PLACE: Peace River Regional District, Fort St. John

PRESENT: **Staff**
Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services
Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer
Jodi MacLean, Project Planner
Diana Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Guests
Kevin Henderson, City of Dawson Creek
Clark Hazelhurst, Tumbler Ridge
Peter Thomas, Pouce Coupe
Victor Shopland, City of Fort St. John
Terry Johnston, Taylor
Charles Nash, Hudson's Hope
Rob Crisfield, Chetwynd
Doug Fleming, Chetwynd

Commencement: The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm

Introductions: Self introductions were made.

Discussion: Municipality and District updates

City of Fort St. John Update: Victor Shopland – City of Fort St. John update:

- the City of Fort St. John did a water and sewer energy audit
- also did a corporate energy study – it is complete and will be presented to Council on February 8th
- the draft report on the Community Energy Study is being reviewed – it will be presented to the Community in March – there is a big evening planned for this
- we are looking at an Energy Manager Agreement with Hydro – Hydro will fund half the cost of the position for the first two years

Discussion: Municipality and District updates (continued)

DRAFT

City of Fort St. John
Update:

Victor Shopland (continued)

- we've done the sustainable community charrette – now we have to move forward with it
- we are waiting for the Energy Manager to be hired – hoping this person will save enough money to pay for the new position
- we are continuing with putting in LED street lights
- moving forward on a lot of little initiatives

Question: What requirements does Hydro have with regard to the Energy Manager?

Answer: Hydro was very strong about the job description being what they wanted. The position has not been posted yet.

Question: Regarding the LED street lights – the quality wasn't quite there before – what are you learning about them now?

Answer: We just got the specs – still have to look at them. Technology is getting better though, next year might be a better time to buy in – this will be part of our sub-division spec this year.

Question: If we, as a region, purchased the same light head – would it be advantageous?

Answer: I'm sure it would be.

Discussion:

Chetwynd and Taylor representatives both expressed interest in a regional Light purchase.

It was noted that there would be benefit from bulk purchasing if someone wanted to take the lead.

Victor Shopland: Would have to check the specs. We will probably go ahead with some in the fall, but next year may be the time to look at bulk purchasing. We have been very pleased with the LED lights on our walking trail.

Rob Crisfield: The LED lights have really come leaps and bounds in the last couple of years. Our hazard beacon lights around the airport have been changed out to LED – they have a 10 year warranty and are pretty much maintenance free.

Victor Shopland: The value of Fort St. John's corporate energy plan is right around \$50,000 (offset costs to achieve carbon neutral).

Bruce Simard: My understanding is that to get to "carbon neutral" you have to invest in something outside of your own operations.

Terry Johnston: That is my understanding as well. The only thing municipally that qualifies is tree planting as it benefits everyone. The guidelines have been changed. UBCM should be all over this if they are changing the guidelines.

Victor Shopland: Getting to carbon neutral has a big potential for scam.

Discussion: Municipality and District updates (continued)

DRAFT

City of Fort St. John
Update:

Discussion: continued

Terry Johnston: As a region, we should be making noise at UBCM – no one has a firm grasp of the guidelines

Village of Pouce Coupe
Update:

Peter Thomas - Village of Pouce Coupe update:

- Pouce Coupe has done the corporate energy plan with STANTEC – that's all we've done. It has been presented to council.

Question: What was your council's reaction?

Answer: It was immaterial – old school thought. The largest portion of our carbon footprint was fleet.

District of Tumbler Ridge
Update:

Clark Hazelhurst – District of Tumbler Ridge update:

- Stantec did our energy plan – it will go to council on February 1st.
- our rec centre is having major retrofits (roof, high efficient boilers for heating and cooling) – overhaul of the whole centre
- this year we are planting trees and installing water meters – working on finishing water meter by-law
- installing more efficient electric baseboards in the shop
- pump wells – switch gear changes
- we put in some LED street lights at the beginning of last winter and have not had any problems – they have been working great even at 40 below. We bought a light meter and are doing periodic checks. The LED's give off a white light. We asked for public opinion and did not receive any response.
- we've budgeted funds for the new LED's – it's a chip rather than diodes mounted in a typical cobra head

Discussion:

Victor Shopland: We had a lot of positive response on our LED lights.

We saw a huge water and dollar savings when we put in water meters and low flush toilets.

Rob Crisfield: All of the water meters in Chetwynd have one rate.

Clark Hazelhurst: We're having trouble determining rates.

Fred Banham: Grande Prairie is proposing a water rate of \$6.10 per cubic meter – the logic is it will force people to be water conservative.

Kevin Henderson: We are looking at water rates. We have been metered for years in Dawson Creek and still haven't seen any big changes. Water is a commodity like anything else – every bit used should be paid for.

Clark Hazelhurst: We don't want to underestimate when we set our rates. Some places have descending rates – the more that's used, the less it costs.

DRAFT

Discussion: Municipality and District updates (continued)

District of Tumbler Ridge
Update: (continued)

Charles Nash: At a previous municipality, we did test meters for a few years and that gave us a good idea for rates.

District of Hudson's
Hope Update

Charles Nash:

- Pembina did our energy plan – council adopted it
- we are going through the budget exercise to see where council wants to spend money
- we are reviewing our fleet – getting some hybrids
- looking at retrofits on the pool and arena
- looking at LED lights
- looking at retrofits for the District Office and Public Works yard
- we are taking slow incremental steps

City of Dawson Creek
Update

Kevin Henderson:

- our OCP was re-done by HB Lanarc – there are some kinks in it – contained a lot of sustainable initiatives such as water conservation, solar opportunities
- we're looking at a bio-mass strategy and feasibility study – a biomass generator at the multiplex using straw for fuel – trying to have it shelf ready if we can come up with some money

Bruce Simard: that wouldn't qualify for a carbon offset because it's your own facility – even though it does reduce your emissions.

Kevin Henderson: continued

- we are also looking at an effluent project – treating sewage to a standard that industry could use – depends on the cost of treating it to a standard that Environment and Health will be happy with – they are the dictators – there are no regulations around this and that's part of the holdup.

Bruce Simard: perhaps that could qualify as an offset?

Victor Shopland: the big concern that I've heard is bio-accumulation of stuff and where it goes.

Kevin Henderson: continued

- we are getting closer – hoping to go to an RFP in about 3 weeks
- industry realizes there is a huge business potential
- the City's offset cost is over \$90,000 – probably closer to \$100,000

District of Chetwynd
Update

Rob Crisfield:

- Urban Systems did our community plan
- looking at sustainability and different initiatives
- we made changes to our water by-law – low flow fixtures

DRAFT

Discussion: Municipality and District updates (continued)

District of Chetwynd
Update (continued)

- we haven't done our fleet assessment but have been taking some steps – we've tried some fuel economy gadgets and have had only limited success
- we switched out the hazard beacon lights at the airport to LED and are running them only at night
- we ran a low flush toilet rebate and rain barrel rebate program – we used NEAT to promote the program
- we are hoping to build a new municipal hall – will make it as green as possible

Question: How does the low flow toilet program work?

Victor Shopland: Our program is rich – the toilets are free - we blew our budget huge when we put in water meters – everyone wanted the low flush toilets. The first year we spent \$80,000, second year we spent the same and last year, with the water meters, our costs doubled. The water consumption is down. We are only changing the technology, not the habits – people can still flush.

Chetwynd's offset number is \$31,000.

District of Taylor Update

Terry Johnston:

- Stantec did our corporate energy plan
- not sure if we'll be doing an OCP
- we revamped the Municipal Hall
- Council wants to look at water use – water meters and low flush toilets
- under Council's direction – we are not undertaking any new projects until the others are done
- we've seen a 25% reduction in water use by lowering consumption
- we are watering the golf course with effluent from the mill
- our carbon offset is \$17,500

Peace River Regional
District Update

Bruce Simard:

- we are coordinating the Stantec Corporate and Community Energy & Emissions project with four other municipalities – 3 have already been presented: the Peace River Regional District, Taylor and Pouce Coupe.
- February will be Phase 2 – the Community Energy Plan
- NEAT is assisting us and is looking for providers to display
- Jodi MacLean has been working in the rural areas on the OCP – introducing the energy plan – it has not been received well – high degree of cynicism
- May is the deadline for Green House Gas reduction targets in OCP's
- the Province is looking for someone to assist the Peace River Regional District with the Community Energy road show
- our corporate energy plan is at \$5,500 for offsets per year
- the building opportunities assessment was done for approximately 24 buildings – overview was suggestions for retrofits
- the "energy services contractor" is something we could get together on

Discussion: Municipality and District updates (continued)

DRAFT

Peace River Regional
District Update
(continued)

Fred Banham:
Solid Waste

- Versus Goliath Project Solutions Inc. asked about capturing methane gas from capped landfills – they want to drill, collect and burn off
- Pacific Carbon Trust is doing a proposal call to purchase carbon credits from similar projects
- By 2015-2016 it will be mandatory for all active land fills to have gas collection

Bruce Simard:

Stantec is looking at everyone's energy plans together to see what opportunities are available there – this is scheduled to be completed by the end of April/beginning of May

R-1
Blue Sky Climate Action
Collaborative Workshop

For information.

R-2
Proposed Feasibility
Study for Regional
Community Energy
Partnership

Bruce Simard:

- the Regional District, as a whole, has a massive tax base – 60% is industry
- grant programs are something that we can do
- what if we supplement programs on a regional scale – and fund through regional taxation – everyone pays a portion (e.g., a \$200,000 home owner would pay \$8.00 and would have the potential of getting back a good return)
- an idea would be to create a base endowment – call it a partnership
- could it be a vehicle where we could invest our carbon dollars together – together we have a total of \$275,000 per year for offsets
- the provincial incentive program is dead and the federal one wont last long
- the monitoring becomes the difficult part

Victor Shopland:

- It would really be no different than the “toilet program” – same idea, just a larger concept. Who would monitor?

Kevin Henderson:

- Is that something an “Energy Manager” could run? If our council is going to put in \$50,000 they are going to want to see their own electorate benefit.

Terry Johnston:

- What does it matter who benefits – as long as it's not leaving the region? Our council would support regionally.

Bruce Simard:

- Do we include First Nations? At the OCP meetings, First Nations have shown an interest in energy efficiency.

R-2
Proposed Feasibility
Study for Regional
Community Energy
Partnership (continued)

Bruce Simard:

- Regarding the recommendation for the proposed feasibility study for a Regional Community Energy Partnership – we would do a RFP

DRAFT

Charles Nash:

- The RFP should be limited to being sent to 3
- I see two issues around this: fairness in disbursements (e.g., Tumbler Ridge wouldn't want to fund something in Fort St. John or Taylor); and, administration costs.

Fred Banham:

- The bottom line is we all signed onto this – if we can show some initiatives and keep the money here...

Terry Johnston asked if anyone was opposed to the recommendation. There was no opposition.

BY CONSENSUS:

That the Peace Region Climate Task Group recommend to the Regional Board inclusion of \$45,000 in the 2010 Peace River Regional District budget for a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a "Regional Community Energy Partnership" that can:

- 1) enhance regional capacity for improving energy efficiency and renewable energy use;
- 2) become a mechanism for investing in carbon offsets within the region.

CARRIED.

Fred Banham:

- Does this warrant its own commission or body?

Charles Nash:

- Can't we ask Stantec to make a recommendation on that?

R-3
Climate Adaptation
Research: Pacific
Climate Impacts

Bruce Simard provided some background:

Victor Shopland: We've done a lot of studies already.

Terry Johnston: This is not a local government issue; this should be at the provincial level. The Regional Board could approach the Ministry of Environment to do the project.

Conclusion:

Bruce Simard thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm