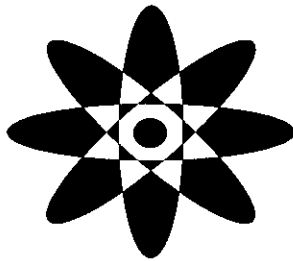


PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

April 10, 2008



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

for the April 10, 2008 Board Meeting

REPORTS:

R-3

Additional Item:

- March 25, 2008 District of Chetwynd, Council Agenda report in support of BCR Properties Ltd. proposal for Subdivision.

DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

R-3

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

RE: BCR Properties Ltd.	DATE: March 25, 2008
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Engineering & Public Works	
<p>EXPLANATION: BCR Properties Ltd. has requested support for their application to the Agricultural Land Commission for removal the following lands from the Agricultural Land reserves:</p> <p>Portion of PID:014-913-569 The North East ¼ of District Lot 1131 Peace River District Except Plan A2033 Portion of PID:014-903-121 Block 'A' of District Lot 357 Peace River District Except Plan 28110 and A1805 Portion of PID:014-682-532 Block 'B' of District Lot 357 Peace River District Except Plan CG570</p> <p>The above lands also known as BCR Lease # TS345 and #2193 on the BC Assessment Roll. The District of Chetwynd Zoning Bylaw 816/ZON/04 has the property zoned as I-2, Heavy Industrial and in the Official Community Plan Bylaw 815/D&P/04.</p> <p>BCR Properties Ltd. is making application "for Subdivision in the Agricultural Land Reserve Portions of: North East ¼ of District Lot 1131 Peace River District Except Plan A2033; Block 'A' of District Lot 357 Peace River District Except Plans 28110 and A1805 and Block 'B' of District Lot 357 Peace River District Except Plan CG570".</p> <p>The subdivision will consist of 2 lots – Lot 1 20 ha for commercial; Lot 2 – 2.48 ha for residential use.</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION: Council support the BCR Properties Ltd. proposal "for Subdivision in the Agricultural Land Reserve Portions of: North East ¼ of District Lot 1131 Peace River District Except Plan A2033; Block 'A' of District Lot 357 Peace River District Except Plans 28110 and A1805 and Block 'B' of District Lot 357 Peace River District Except Plan CG570" and recommend authorization for the application as submitted to proceed to the Agricultural Land Commission on the basis that the proposal meets OCP 815/D&P/04 Land Use plan.</p>	
<p>REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL Submitted by:</p>	
<p>_____ CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:</p>	<p>_____ DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS</p>

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PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Items to be received for information.

April 10, 2008

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

CONSENT CALENDAR

for the April 10, 2008 Board Meeting

MINUTES:

MA-1 Provincial Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE:

CA-1 March 7, 2008 publication of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC's *Board Meeting Highlights*.

MA-1

Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2008
Ramada Inn, Penticton

Attendees: Chris Vos, Alex McLean, Phil Hallinan, Mike Badry (Chair), John Wilson, Mike Rose, Brian Baehr, Karen Goodings, Wray McDonnell, Dennis St John, Jeff Morgan, Carl Withler, Larry Plett

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am. Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed.

1. Business Arising from the Minutes:

Item # 10 from the previous minutes was amended to replace the words “cull proposal” with “proposed control measures”. The issue of how concerns of high deer numbers are brought forward to regional MoE staff. It was recommended that re-forming regional conflict committees (as in the Peace) would help move these issues forward. MoE regional staff currently consult with local stock associations and concerns with conflict can be raised there as well. It will be important to coordinate increased seasons with access to private lands (PAZWP) and the BCAWAC continues to support Jeff’s PAZWP to address ungulate conflicts on private lands. There is concern with the livestock industry that this process progresses quickly.

Action: MOE to provide deer harvest stats and deer-vehicle collision stats for next meeting.

It was confirmed that the BCAWAC has not been forwarding minutes to the Partnership Committee but will be from now on. Previous reports to the PC have been delivered by the BCAWAC chairs. Wray distributed the summary that was presented at the October 2007 PC meeting. The process is working well and the BCAWAC will continue to be advisory to the PC.

Progress has been made regarding escaped bison in the Peace. Wray distributed a handout of the MAL protocol to deal with “bison at large” and recent activities to remove 22 feral bison. Karen indicated that the response to escaped bison is still not quick enough. Communication process needs to be improved – timing is essential.

Wray distributed response from Dr. Merv Wetzstein regarding management of CWD in zoos. CWD is a reportable disease and in the case of an outbreak the federal government is the lead agency and would immediately take over.

2. Wildlife Act Review and Amendments:

Mike Badry provided an update. The Wildlife Act Review has resulted in a scaled down package of amendments, not the major review as originally proposed. Changes that will be going forward include:

- Fines and penalties
- First Nations Relationships
- Definition of an officer
- Control of Dangerous Exotics

APR 10 2008

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MA-1

3. Compensation Projects:

Chris Vos reported that:

- Wrapping up 2007-08 business
- \$10 million in new funding has been announced for 08-09
- All current projects being continued in 08-09
- Potential wild ungulate foraging program in development. Todd Bondaroff has been contracted to examine a program for losses to forage crops by wild ungulates and other wildlife, as well as an excreta cleaning program.

Karen asked about compensation for damage to infrastructure such as vehicles and buildings from wildlife. Chris indicated that this would not be consistent with the federal agreement and the province needs to be consistent in their delivery to access shared funding.

4. AEI Projects:

Brian Baehr provided an update on status of Agriculture Wildlife Issues and Initiatives:

- Proposed Agriculture Environment Wildlife Program not signed off yet. Likely to have \$2.5 million over the next year to address broad environmental issues.
- This money cannot be used to support current programs, must be new proposals.
- Do have the ability to fund the Wild Predator Control Loss and Compensation Program to March 09.

5. Predator Loss Program:

John Wilson circulated a handout on the Predator Loss Program.

- Number of incidents continues to rise, likely due to increased wolf numbers and increased uptake of the program by producers.
- Incidents of harassment have increased substantially.

Discussion took place regarding compensation vs. mitigation.

6. EFP Prevention Activities:

BCAC is continuing to collect list of items that should be included in Environmental Farm Planning. There is no new agreement in place yet and the old list of BMPs is being used in the interim. Items discussed included:

- bear fencing, snake fencing, agriculture land fill fencing for bears, hunting cabins, wetland fencing for amphibians, netting for common bird species.

Also need to review caps on funding (i.e. larger operations have greater requirements such as numerous haystacks).

Action: All BCAWAC members should forward items to include under EFP to Brian Baehr.

7. Enfranchisement/Incentives Project:

Jeff Morgan discussed the PAZWP and its objectives:

In making a contribution to the PAZWP, MoE will augment (not replace) the existing resources that are dedicated toward agriculture/wildlife conflict in the province. In doing so, MoE will help to create a provincial team, or focal point, that will develop consistent management approaches and coordinate intra and inter-ministry resources.

Once established, the Provincial Agricultural Zone Wildlife Program (PAZWP) will allow MoE to establish firm targets for wildlife populations in agricultural zones, to increase hunting opportunities, and to use hunting as a tool to mitigate agricultural impacts. The PAZWP will provide practitioners with the resources required to effectively manage wildlife and to maintain public, stakeholder and First Nations confidence. The PAZWP will: 1) establish and work cooperatively toward economic, ecological and social objectives within the Agricultural Land Reserve; 2) leverage federal funding (Federal-Provincial-Territorial Framework Agreement on Agriculture); and, 3) effectively coordinate resources with other organizations in order to optimize societal returns.

Ministry of Environment's authority to manage wildlife will be coordinated and balanced with Ministry of Agricultural and Lands' (Business Risk Management Branch) authority and ability to assess crop damage and provide compensation to producers.

At the provincial level, coordination will be achieved through existing committees and through a technical working group that are mandated to promote stewardship and integrate all prevention, mitigation and compensation strategies (see Figure 1) for agriculture/wildlife conflict. At the regional level, agriculture/wildlife conflict resolution committees will be established and maintained (see Figure 2).

In addition, government will coordinate resources and develop partnerships with other organizations such as the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) which delivers the Environmental Farm Plan and the Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund.

With increased population assessment information, Ministry of Environment wildlife managers will establish population targets and develop harvest strategies for agricultural settings based on the objectives of all sectors. The Agricultural Land Reserve will be recognized as a special zone with specific objectives and opportunities and MoE will increase its focus on proactive wildlife management solutions.

Specifically Ministry of Environment PAZWP will:

- fund incremental regional MoE positions and/or direct existing positions to act as 'point people' to coordinate and contribute toward the management of wildlife populations and crop damage mitigation in agricultural settings;

- collaborate in the development of provincial and regional agriculture zone harvest strategies;
- collaborate in regular wildlife population assessments;
- assimilate and respond to crop loss assessment information provided by MAL;
- develop and manage private land hunting coordination programs;
- develop an agriculture zone hunting license system to promote agriculture zone hunting and increase revenues;
- develop provincial policies and MOUs for issues such as the issuance of wildlife kill permits, escaped buffalo etc.;
- collaborate with the Conservation Officer Service (MoE) in the development of private land compliance and enforcement strategies;
- collaborate with MAL in the development of a public and local government education and awareness strategy designed to maintain the use of hunting as a wildlife management tool within the ALR;
- partner with other organizations and funding sources (e.g. Insurance Corporation of BC and the BCAC) to develop additional programs that promote public safety and environmental stewardship (involving biodiversity, water and recreation) on private land; and,
- establish, in cooperation with MAL, regional agriculture/wildlife conflict resolution committees.

Through the PAZWP, hunting would be promoted as an effective “win-win” wildlife management tool. An agricultural zone hunting license system would be developed to generate additional revenues that could be used to support the program (subject to Treasury Board approval).

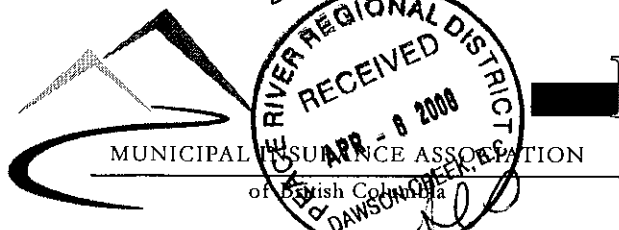
8. New Issues Arising/Wildlife Reports:

Wray distributed handouts regarding conflicts between MOE BMPs and FPPA Normal Farm Practices. These BMPs are restricting landowners from agricultural opportunities. This issue will be discussed at the PC meeting on March 4 in Victoria.

The West Kootenays is experiencing a problem with elk in haystacks and displacing cattle from feed. The EFP may be a possibility to support fencing or other mitigation. The program is wrapping up for now but another will be forthcoming. Producers can be directed to the BCAC website for contacts.

Next Meeting: - June 18-19 along the Hwy 16 corridor or Kootenays.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.



Board Meeting Highlights

March 7, 2008

The MIABC Concludes its 20th Decade with another Successful Year

The Board of Directors marked the conclusion of the MIABC's 20th year of operations at its 2007 year-end meetings on March 6th and 7th. Both the Association's auditors and actuary delivered positive assessments of the MIABC's annual results.

Liabilities Decrease

PricewaterhouseCoopers, the MIABC's actuary, started the proceedings by presenting a valuation of the MIABC's liabilities at \$37.5 million – \$3.6 million less than 2006. Our third consecutive year of declining liabilities, which have dropped by over \$28 million over that period. This has been due to a combination of closing older claims (particularly leaky condo matters) for substantially less than anticipated and unexpectedly low severity of new claims. It is expected that this trend has run its course and that claims liabilities will stabilize over the coming year.

Net Income Remains Positive

It was not anticipated that the MIABC would match last year's record operating profit of \$12.6 million; however, the results were not far off as earnings came in at \$10.5 million. In part this was the result of declining claims liabilities, but it also reflects investment income of \$3.9 million. Although this was a \$2 million drop from 2006, it represents a healthy return given the challenging investment environment.

Equity Climbs to Record Level

The bottom line was that the MIABC members saw their equity increase 18.4% to \$53.5 million from \$45.2 million in 2006. The results put the Board in a position to declare dividends again in 2008. It is anticipated that the amount of the dividends will be determined at the June Board meeting.

Successful Reinsurance Renewal for 2008

Next to claims, the cost of reinsurance is the largest expense borne by MIABC members. These costs escalated rapidly commencing in 2002, reaching a peak of \$5.7 million in 2003. Since then the MIABC's burgeoning financial strength exhibiting by its growing equity, improved market conditions, and the efforts of our reinsurance intermediary have combined to steadily reduce these costs. The 2008 program was placed for \$3.5 million – a 38% decline.

Membership Continues to Grow

The Villages of Canal Flats, Barriere, and Clearwater have all joined the MIA. Barriere and Clearwater are newly created local governments formed in late 2007. In addition the Comox-Strathcona Regional District has been restructured as the Comox Valley Regional District and The Strathcona Regional District. Both new entities are MIABC members. These developments bring the total membership to 168 – 88% of B.C.'s local governments.

Legal Department to Expand

The Board reviewed the results achieved by the MIABC's in-house Legal Department following the completion of its second year of operation. In 2007 the Legal Department handled 213 litigation matters, almost half the MIABC's total at an average cost of \$1860 (a slight reduction from 2006). External legal costs increased over 20% to almost \$11,000 per claim. Overall, the Legal Department has saved MIABC members over \$1 million in defence costs since it was established. In view of these results, the Board decided to add a fourth staff lawyer later in 2008.