



## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

### JUNE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 16, 2011

TIME: 12 Noon

PLACE: Regional District Office Board Room, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Directors  
Director Goodings  
Director Hiebert  
Director Hadland  
Director Caton  
Director Jarvis  
Director Lantz  
Director Bernier  
Director Ackerman

Alternate Directors  
Alternate Director Nichols  
Alternate Director Schembri

Absent  
Director Saugstad  
Director White  
Director Clark  
Director Anderson

#### Staff

Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer  
Shannon Anderson, General Manager of Environmental Services  
Kim Frech, Chief Financial Officer  
Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services  
Sheila DeCosta, Secretary Legislative Services - Recorder

#### Guests

The Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture  
Mr. Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North  
Don Smukowich, Executive Assistant to The Honourable Don McRae

#### Guests Absent

The Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure / MLA PR South

#### Others

Matthew Bains, Northeast News  
Adam Perrin, Peace FM  
Kirstin Ridout, Astral Radio  
Stewart Burnett, DC Daily News  
Jason Gowda, EnCana

#### 1) Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12 Noon. She welcomed special guests: The Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North. Mr. Pimm explained that The Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure / MLA Peace River South, had commitments in Vancouver and was therefore unable to attend the meeting.

DIRECTORS NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS:

Director Bernier                      The Importance of FairShare

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

2) Adoption of Agenda      SRD/11/06/01  
MOVED by Director Hiebert, SECONDED by Director Hadland,  
that the Peace River Regional District agenda for the June 16, 2011 special meeting,  
including Director's new business and additional items for the agenda, be adopted as  
amended:

1. Call to Order
2. Directors' Notice of New Business

SNB-1The Importance of FairShare

3. Adoption of Agenda

SM-2 FairShare Cheque Presentation

*Handout:*

June 16, 2011 News Release from the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural  
Development "FairShare M.O.U. provides \$32.2 million to Peace Region".

SM-3 Food Security for BC

- a) May 31, 2011 letter from Chair Goodings, to the Honourable Don McRae and The  
Honourable Steve Thomson voicing the Boards' dissatisfaction with the provincial  
response to its resolution to UBCM.
- b) April 20, 2011 letter from Barbara Steel, President UBCM regarding the provincial  
response to the 2010 B119 Food Security for BC resolution.

*Handout:*

Photos showing crop production in the Peace River Valley and sloughing at Williston  
Lake (excerpts from presentation to the Board on March 2009).

SM-4 Board Orders for Surface Rights / Impacts Agriculture Land / Farmers Advocate.

- a) Four page excerpt from the Independent Land Information and Advocate Office  
Second Quarter Report (December 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011).

*Handout:*

Copy of November 19, 2007 letter from Arthur A. Hadland, Consulting Agrologist  
regarding Compensation for the industrial land use under the *Petroleum and Natural  
Gas Act*.

SM-5 Highway Rest Areas, Passing Lanes and Other Transportation Issues

- a) June 8, 2011 letter from Chair Goodings, to The Honourable Blair Lekstrom  
regarding this region's lack of highway rest areas and passing lanes.
- b) June 3, 2011 letter from Faye Salisbury, Corporate Officer to Mr. Derek Drummond  
regarding the Kiskatinaw Rest Area bathroom facilities with attached background  
letters.

4. Adjournment

CARRIED

3) SM-2  
FairShare Cheque  
Presentation

On behalf of Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, MLA Pat Pimm officially presented Chair Goodings with a cheque from the province in the amount of 32.2 million dollars as the latest instalment of the FairShare Memorandum of Understanding to support economic development and address infrastructure priorities in B.C.'s northeast. Initiated in 2005, the Provincial/Peace River MOU provides at least \$20 million annually to the Peace River Regional District, indexed to changes in the rural industrial assessment base. The funds act as "grants-in-lieu" for the industrial tax base which is located outside the boundaries of the region's municipalities, where conventional taxation collection practices are impossible. The agreement is in effect until March 31, 2020.

A photo opportunity was given to the media.

4) SM-3  
Food Security for BC

The Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture commented that self-sufficiency in food production for the province of B.C. is an important issue and that there are opportunities for the province to improve. For an example, he mentioned that as much as 60 percent of land in the lower mainland is either not being used for agricultural production or is being underutilized. The province is currently having discussions with the federal government about a forward growing partnership. Minister McRae stated that he is looking forward to 2013 when 553 million dollars will be put into agriculture in BC. He encouraged continuing advocacy from local food producers and representative local government bodies to keep the ministry connected to local issues. He spoke of the challenges the ministry is facing, such as having the population numbers equal to Denmark, but an area twice the size of France, with vast diversifications in geography and climactic conditions that need to be considered.

A question and answer period ensued with the following points discussed:

- overly cumbersome health regulations making it difficult for producers;
- food safety concerns making this a changing world;
- Europe's dealings with E-Coli at the present;
- industrial impacts to agricultural land, e.g. Site C Proposal;
- the difficulty finding balance with the need for energy;
- the importance of consultation with the best available information;
- when dealing with nature, there are always surprises;
- the importance of getting back to policy to work toward food security for the future;
- the need for more available local meat inspection facilities in the north;
- the differences between food production in the north versus the south, and how the north needs to be looked at distinctively when it comes to rules and regulations; and
- the importance of the Peace River area to the rest of the province.

5) SM-4  
Board Orders for  
Surface Rights /  
Impacts Agriculture  
Land / Farmers  
Advocate

In response to MLA Peace River North, Pat Pimm's request, Chair Goodings provided him with a copy of the Boards letter of support of the recommendations as outlined in the Independent Land Information & Advocate Office (Farmers' Advocate) second quarter progress report, which was previously sent to the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Energy and Mines.

A question and answer period ensued with the following points discussed:

- the Northeast Energy and Mines Advisory Committee (NEEMAC) process stoppage, and where it stands now?;
- suggestion of an annual rent compensation for landowners versus a lump sum payment from industry, for pipelines;
- industrial impacts on agricultural land; and
- the advocacy office is working in the right direction.

6) SM-5  
Highway Rest Areas,  
Passing Lanes and  
Other Transportation  
Issues

Transportation issues in the region were not discussed in depth as The Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure was not in attendance. Alternate Director Nichols advised the Board that Jackfish Lake Road is in dire need of an upgrade due to heavy industrial traffic use making it unsafe for travellers, and suggested that this should be added to the list of concerns in this region.

7) SNB-1  
The Importance of  
FairShare

Director Bernier expressed appreciation for the FairShare cheque presentation and the stability it brings to this region. He stated that this area has obviously been impacted by industrial activity and that the southern portion of the province doesn't always realize that this area generates 62% of the entire provincial revenue. He thanked Mr. Pimm, MLA Peace River North for stating it so well in the following quote:  
"The FairShare agreement has funnelled close to \$185 million into our rural Northeast communities, giving them the boost they need to attract business, jobs and families and helping them build and upgrade infrastructure. These communities have a wealth of resources that help sustain B.C.'s economy, and this agreement is about flowing some of that wealth back into the region it came from".

8) Adjournment

SRD/11/06/02  
MOVED by Director Lantz, SECONDED by Director Ackerman,  
that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila DeCosta, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Goodings, Chair

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District from a special meeting held on June 16, 2011 in the Regional District Office Board Room, Dawson Creek, B.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faye Salisbury, Corporate Officer