



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT Board Newsletter



Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and the Peace River Regional District Board Meetings, held August 11, 2011

Alaska Highway Community Society

April Moi, Community Development, Northern BC Tourism Association and Darryl Johnson, Vice President AHCS updated the Board on current status and revised budget for the proposal to obtain National Historic Site designation of the Alaska Highway in time for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the highway in 2017. They requested that the Peace River Regional District contribute at total of \$538,060 over the next three years toward the project.



Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honourable Blair Lekstrom spoke of the challenges that the recent flood event placed on his ministry, but was pleased to report that even though roads, pipelines and rail lines, particularly in the Pine Pass, received significant damage; crews have been working tirelessly to get traffic flowing as quickly as possible. He expected the Pine Pass would be restored to its two lane capacity by late fall. He went on to highlight the ministry's plans for the following improvements in the northeast:

- rural road upgrades and dust suppression;
- multi-year project to four-lane the highway from the Alberta border through to Fort St. John;
- installation of bathroom facilities at the Kiskatinaw rest area to commence next week; and
- future plans for five additional rest areas.

Following a question and answer period on a variety of topics, Minister Lekstrom added his compliments to those of the Directors, for the post-flood restoration work done by the local highway crews.



Staff Service Awards

Chair Goodings congratulated and presented the regional district's ten-year service awards to Shannon Anderson, Deputy CAO / General Manager of Environmental Services and Fred Tan, Systems Technician.

More Highlights

- ★ Two new staff members, Elaine Armagost, Invasive Plant Program Manager and Ken Kalirai, Assistant Manager of Development Services were introduced to the Board.
- ★ The Board appointed Director Goodings as an alternate to the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ★ The Board refused authorization for Non-farm Use Permit Application No. 101/2011 (Lenz) to proceed to the Agricultural Land Commission.
- ★ The Board resolved to forward a letter to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development stating that the Board unanimously does not support the creation of the office of Municipal Auditor General.
- ★ The Board resolved to continue to seek creation of a Heritage Service over time (by obtaining regional agreement and confirmation of full Board participation). In the meantime, defer all work associated with the Alaska Highway historic designation report until such time as the Regional District has successfully implemented a Heritage Service function and established a Heritage Plan and Heritage Registry.
- ★ Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services provided a demonstration of the new Peace River Regional District GIS portal which will be launched soon. He demonstrated the search capabilities where reports, pictures and legal information regarding rural properties can be obtained and downloaded, while the privacy of landowners is still being protected. Currently, the data relates only to the rural areas of the regional district, but as the program evolves, Mr. Simard is hoping that the portal can also host information from municipalities.



Next Regional Board Meeting

10 a.m., Thursday, August 25, 2011 in the Carpet Room of the North Peace Cultural Centre at 10015 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC



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