

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD AT THE WILLISTON LAKE RESORT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present **Council:** Mayor Anderson; Councillors Johansson, Johnson, Quibell, Stacey, and Summer
 Staff: C. Bonnick, Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anderson called the special meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

SLOUGHING

Mr. K. Karpiak, Yacht Club Representative, stated:

- Due to the sloughing, the yacht club has lost its wind protection in the bay and they are trying to construct a breakwater;
- The water depth is good at the marina but dropping the levels by 5 feet would have an impact on operations;

Mr. G. Shelton stated:

- He has owned property in the area for many years;
- He has requested but never been allowed to see the sloughing map from BC Hydro;
- BC Hydro could consider providing landowners with land in-lieu from the Crown;
- Between 1981 and 1990, he would lose approximately 30 feet at a time;
- He built a retaining wall every spring but needed to replace the gravel every year; he was unable to replace the gravel one year and lost the wall;
- A rock surfaced in front of his property some time ago and helped to stop the waves from crashing into the banks which has helped to slow the sloughing;
- Perhaps the most permanent solution would be to place rip-rap on the original property lines from the 1960s to the height of the water;
- He tried installing booms – they helped but didn't last; the boom cables break in high winds.

Ms. L. Fox stated:

- She purchased her property 3½ years ago and has been losing land to sloughing on a regular basis;
- This year has been the worst as there was a loss of approximately 60 to 100 feet of land due to sloughing, particularly during wind storms;
- It is likely that they will have to relocate their home this fall;
- She believes that the removal of more trees will create more dust and more erosion;
- They don't know where the bedrock is.

Mr. V. Boyle stated:

- He asked BC Hydro for the sloughing information in 1998 and was told it was a "need to know basis only";
- He does not know where the "safe line" is located on his property;
- He has probably lost between 300 feet and 1000 feet of land in the last 10 years to sloughing;
- The dust is bad on any given day and you can't even see the lake; the silt is fine and gets into everything;
- The rip-rap may be a good idea, in-lieu land should be considered and a breakwater

would likely help as well;

- The lake bottom is silt, then clay;
- Property owners should be entitled to a reimbursement of taxes on lost land; he believes the title still exists when the water levels are low;
- If landowners want their assessments changed, a survey is required; BC Hydro should step up and pay for the surveys.

Mr. J. Kruger stated:

- His neighbour got cement blocks used at river crossings and spent a significant amount of time constructing a road at low water, but it all fell over in the fall.

Councillor Summer stated:

- District Lot 754 was exchanged with the province;
- Establishment of safe lines were estimated by BC Hydro.

Councillor Johansson stated:

- The road was resettlement road for people displaced by the dam.
- The Water Use Plan was discussed in 2002/2003 and is supposed to be reviewed every 10 years from implementation, however, implementation has just now been started;
- Perhaps the Fox property could be used as a test site as their situation appears to be much more urgent than others along Twelve Mile Road.

Mr. D. Conway, BC Hydro, stated:

- The situation seems to have become worse in the past three years and the reservoir levels have been higher;
- They have been running 14 to 15 feet higher, due in part to the seasonal runoff and the work being conducted at the dam;
- The shoreline clearing was done to 2210 feet;
- BC Hydro is in the process of putting the Terms of Reference in place for the Water Use Plan;
- A significant amount of time has passed since the 2003 consensus of the plan but the process was open for anyone to participate; the yacht club, the Peace River Regional District and the District of Hudson's Hope were all represented at the table;
- Funding has been increased to address dust issues at Tsay Keh Dene First Nations at the north end of Williston Lake related to freshet and wind; they are plowing furrows and planting tolerant grasses for stabilization;
- McKenzie has also identified problems and work is being done there as well;
- The sloughing on Twelve Mile Road appears much more severe;
- BC Hydro has brought in a team of experts on dust and erosion and are looking at techniques and recommendations;
- A letter should be forwarded to Bruce Misewich outlining these concerns.

Ms. K. Goodings, Peace River Regional District, stated:

- The property loss needs to be clearly and concisely documented.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. K. Goodings, Peace River Regional District, stated:

- The recently installed electrical extension poles could hold a telephone service; is there any interest in installing land lines or would residents prefer a cellular tower?
- Telus has advised that each person that wants phone service would need to make their own application and it would be better if everyone worked together;
- Telus did a cost-share agreement on Farrell Creek Road and has set a precedent.

Mr. D. Biever stated:

- A cellular tower on Portage Mountain would serve the community well;
- technology should be utilized;

Ms. L. Fox stated:

- Satellite phones are unreliable;

Councillor Quibell stated:

- All services were looked in 2002 and a repeater appeared to be all that was needed to expand the service; the costs should have come down by now.
- A tower on Bullhead Mountain would be okay but Portage Mountain would be better.

Mr. G. Shelton stated:

- Farrell Creek and Beryl Prairie do not have service either.

Mr. D. Conway, BC Hydro, stated:

- BC Hydro tried to do a pole-share agreement with Telus when the electrical extension was done but they were not interested.
- BC Hydro would benefit from improved cellular service and would be supportive.

Mr. W. Kruger stated:

- He has a cellular phone with a booster and it works relatively well unless it is cloudy.

TEMBEC CUTBLOCK

Mayor Anderson advised that Tembec is still actively pursuing the application along Twelve Mile Road and she read a letter of concern from Mr. J. Rhymer.

Ms. K. Goodings, Peace River Regional District, stated:

- She believes that there have been recent meetings on the South Peace Land Resource Management Plan which would include this area;
- She will take this issue forward to the Public Advisory Group

Mr. K. Karpiak, Yacht Club Representative, stated:

- The amount of wood that would be realized from this cutblock would not make or break Tembec;
- He does not believe harvesting would not have an impact on the dust problem;
- The proposed 75 meter buffer will decrease as the sloughing continues;

Mr. A. Anderson stated:

- From a tourism aspect, the visual quality of the area will be diminished if the timber is cut; the area along the entire length of Twelve Mile Road should not be logged;
- There are grizzly bears on top of Butler Ridge but they have been traced on Dunlevy Road.

Mr. V. Boyle stated:

- Twelve Mile Road is a resettlement road for those displaced by the dam; the area should be protected from resource development.

Ms. J. Biever stated:

- Drifting of snow has worsened since the area has been logged and will continue to worsen if more trees are removed;

- There are many more permanent year-round residents that will be affected by this;
- This area is recreational and residential and the resettlement was not created for industry;

Councillor Summer stated:

- If the District identifies this area as a non-harvest area, where can similar volumes of timber be taken from?

In response to a question from Councillor Johansson the residents agreed that the area is utilized for recreation and the planning should be proactive.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor