

The Corporation of the District of Peachland

**Highway 97 Committee
December 3, 2012 - Meeting Minutes**

Quorum is 4 people

Present: John Abernethy (*Acting Chair*), Councillor Eric Hall, Moe Martin, Bert Put, Peter Warner, Bob Wells and Louise Corbeil (*Recording Secretary*)

Regrets: Councillor Terry Condon, David Matthew, Councillor Peter Schierbeck, Terry Tanner

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Abernethy (*Acting Chair*) opened the meeting at 2:35 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION – M/S (B. Wells/P. Warner)

CARRIED

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION – M/S (P. Warner/B. Wells)

CARRIED

THAT the minutes of November 5, 2012 be approved as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1. Princeton Rd Ownership/Classification Review – *Deferred*

4.2. UBCO Partnership

We may have a new contact at UBC. Professor Keith Culver, who also works with New Monaco, seems to have views compatible to this committee. There was an article in the paper that UBC was doing study for Lake Country on alternate transportation lead by Professor Lovegrove. This would be the kind of study we would want him to do for the District of Peachland. It was noted that New Monaco was very supportive of the bypass. Discussion followed on speed limits should the current highway become a community road.

Action: *B. Put will contact Professor Culver*

5. UPDATE REPORTS

5.1. MOTI Update – *Nothing new to report*

5.2. Mayor Fielding Update

Invitations have been sent to Westbank First Nation and West Kelowna Council to appoint representatives to participate on our committee.

Westbank First Nation – We should form a committee to meet with Chief Louie to determine his future plans. He has supported the bypass verbally. It was suggested that it may be best to work through the WFN representative then possibly arrange a meeting with Chief Louie.

Ministry Study – It would be more achievable to have a more detailed impact study other than the 2005 study. The ministry has a complete study. The Minister was apparently willing to share that information. Discussion followed if we could access the study through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). It was recommended that we ask for the report first before we go that route. We could network with Graham Reid who could help us determine if there are more completed studies, and his advice on a possible FOIA request.

Rick Thorpe – Discussion followed on how the Society was formed after talks with then Minister R. Thorpe who was very supportive and provided excellent advice. It may be good to meet with him again to provide a strategy now that he is not in the political arena. We need to pursue all political parties on a regular basis.

New Monaco/Ponderosa – It would be good to work with them on an initiative that the district is working on. Should maybe do a small cost-benefit study on our own i.e. cost of 4-laning existing hwy with sound barrier, expropriations, and blasting side of the mountain.

Discussion followed on how many intersections would be required if the highway was four-laned. If you add those intersections to the estimated cost of the 4-lane option then the cost is the same as the bypass. It was estimated that 25% of the cost for the Summerland expansion was controlling traffic. It would be much more difficult to control traffic in Peachland therefore more expensive. MOTI's main goal is to deliver the traffic at

the best costs possible regardless of where it is located or the economic impact to a community.

- Action:**
- 1. J. Abernethy to ask T. Condon to draft a letter to MOTI requesting all reports as per discussion with the Minister and Mayor and Council members*
 - 2. B. Put to approach G. Reid for assistance*

5.3. Highway 97 Task Force Society Update

P. Warner gave a brief review on the Society's recent AGM. Elections were held and a new Board was formed. The new Chairman is Bruce Letendre and Peter is Vice-Chair. He has the Society's membership list and is working on it. There is a new enthusiasm within the new Board to move forward. It was suggested that social media needs to be developed to keep the community involved. He is in the process of gathering information into one place. He will write a monthly article in The View and directors will work at increasing membership. The website has some good things but the access to it needs to be simplified.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Air Pollution

It was suggested that it may be time to pursue the issue of air pollution. A sign in front of the elementary school was circulated. In the States schools can not be built close to highways. The skateboard park and tennis courts are just a few meters away from the highway where 20,000 vehicles pass by. Another sign at the Community Centre states "no idling". It may be good to have signs put up in front of the mall where truckers leave their trucks idling. School bussing now has a fee. It may be worthwhile to write to School District 23 to request free school bussing be brought back. Diesel fumes are as damaging as asbestos. Need to realize that this is a problem that society is not dealing with at all. The point is that MOTI may make the problem worse by 4-laning the current highway. It can not be a leading issue but it would be worthwhile to educate the public. J. Abernethy has a legal resource that specializes in air quality.

Action: *J. Abernethy to contact his legal resource for advice*

7. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be February 4, 2013.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Acting Chair – John Abernethy

Recording Secretary – Louise Corbeil