

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: March 24, 2025

Subject: Land Referral - Application for a Section 11 Kwadacha Natural Resources Limited Partnership

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council directs Administration on how to respond to the referral request.

BACKGROUND:

The applicant has applied for a Change Approval - Section 11 under the Water Sustainability Act for bridge installation/maintenance/removal purposes at Kwadacha River (see attached maps). Operations may include the removal of merchantable timber and other vegetation from the application area.

Section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act (British Columbia) enables the minister or an authorized delegate to grant permits for short-term water use from streams and other water sources. This section allows individuals, businesses, or government bodies to divert and use water for specific purposes without requiring a full water license, provided the use is temporary and does not cause significant harm to the water resource.

DETAILS:

Proponent: Kwadacha Natural Resources Limited Partnership

Authorization Type: Water Change Approval

Purpose/Intended Use/background context: Bridge Installation/Maintenance/Removal

BCGS Mapsheet: 94F.042

Location or Project Name: Kwadacha River

Legal Description or Tenures: DISTRICT LOT 4839 CASSIAR DISTRICT AND UNTITLED CROWN LAND

Area (ha): 1.26 ha

EXCERPT FROM MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Kwadacha-DWB Limited Partnership (KDLP) was retained by the Kwadacha Nation (Kwadacha) to prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for a bridge installation over the Kwadacha River (the 'Project'), near the community of Fort Ware. This CEMP has been developed to provide guidelines and recommendations for proposed works to occur in the summer of 2025.

The proposed bridge will cross the Kwadacha River, situated northeast of the community of Fort Ware, British Columbia (BC), at the coordinates 10 U 343058 m E, 6368443 m N (the "Site"; see Figure 1). Fort Ware is part of the Kwadacha First Nation Reserve and is located approximately 570 kilometers (km) north of Prince George, BC. Access to the Site is available by traveling north from Fort Ware along the FinlayRussel Forest Service Road (FSR), then east along the proposed egress route, which will be constructed prior to bridge construction.

The Project will include the installation of a steel girder and concrete composite bridge over the Kwadacha River as a part of an egress route being developed for Fort Ware. The egress route road will commence from an existing road north of Fort Ware, cross the Kwadacha River, then connect to a section of the Finlay North FSR proposed for upgrades. The bridge is a 73.552m concrete composite bridge on driven piles that will span a 60 m section of the river. The riverbank in front of the bridge abutments will be armoured with riprap to aid in erosion prevention. A temporary work bridge (4 x 60' spans, with piles) will be built to allow a crane and other equipment access for pile driving and installation of the new bridge. It will be removed at the end of the Project, prior to site cleanup.

Construction works are anticipated to include the following proposed activities:

- Active bird nest surveys;
- Equipment offload and Site laydown setup;
- Implementation of temporary erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures;
- Clearing and grubbing;
- Abutment installation;
- Site isolation and fish salvage (if required);
- Riprap placement;
- Temporary work bridge installation, including pile driving;
- Permanent bridge installation, including pile driving;
- Grouting;
- Temporary work bridge removal;
- Site cleanup and laydown decommissioning; and
- Environmental management and Site remediation.

It is anticipated that works will be completed in the summer of 2025. Pile driving will be scheduled within the July 15 to August 15 Fisheries Timing Window in the Omineca Region

(Province of BC, 2024c). Approximately 52 crew days are estimated to complete bridge construction.

STAFF COMMENTS:

As the application does not occur within the District of Mackenzie border, there are no zoning or official community plan concerns.

Due to their size, a copy of the management plan and the engineer drawings for the bridge have been included in the Centre Table File rather than attached to the agenda.

COUNCILS RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the information presented, Council is being asked by the Province to provide comment. We are given the following options for response:

1. The District of Mackenzie's interests are unaffected by the application.
2. The District of Mackenzie has no objection to approval of the application.
3. The District of Mackenzie has no objection to approval of application subject to specified conditions.
4. The District of Mackenzie recommends refusal of this application due to specified reason

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Environmental Sustainability

- The way we operate has an impact on the environment. We are committed to integrating sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance factors (ESG) into our decision making and business practices.

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Rachelle Richman, Economic Development Coordinator

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer