

MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS

Todd Stone, Minister, Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

Michelle Schilling, 100 Mile House Manager, Michelle.Schilling@gov.bc.ca

Donna Barnett, MLA-Cariboo-Chilcotin, donna.barnett.mla@leg.bc.ca

FORESTS, LANDS, and NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS:

Regional Manager, Kevin Cameron, Kevin.Cameron@gov.bc.ca

THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT:

Dan Wallace, Planner, TNRD, admin@tnrd.ca

Sukh Gill, Chief Administrative Officer, TNRD, sgill@tnrd.ca

Sally Watson, Area “E” Bonaparte Plateau, director.swatson@tnrd.ca

We have added Mr. Dan Wallace, Planner, TNRD from his response to us;

Patrick Byrne, 100 Mile House District Manager, Pat.Byrne@gov.bc.ca; and

Nicole Tattam, Nicole.Tattam@leg.bc.ca, Office Administrative Assistant to

Jackie Tiegart, MLA Fraser-Nicola, who is actually our MLA covering Sharpe Lake area.

November 26th, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

On October 26th, 2016, we wrote you all in regard to a number of concerns we had. To date we have received the following replies and would like to encourage responses to our concerns and additional requests.

MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS:

- 1) We received a verbal response from Michelle Schilling, 100 Mile House Manager of MOTH, advising that: (a) Sharpe Lake Road was going to be graded before winter; (b) our concerns over accesses and status of Sharpe Lake Road were being reviewed and addressed; (c) our concerns over the continual “open grazing” on the Sharpe Lake Roadway and Crown lands were going to be responded to; and (d) that our suggestions of a cattle guard and other solutions were being reviewed.

- 2) We acknowledge that: (a) early winter conditions of snow in early November did not allow Sharpe Lake Road to be graded, even though a grader was seen on the Eagan Lake Road several weeks before the snow arrived; and (b), (c), (d), We have not received anything written from either the Regional Manager, or the Ministers office in regard to our concerns.

Recent correspondence received on November 20th from the TNRD has raised a number of other concerns about the approval of subdivision of lands by the ranch owners in 2008, and adoption of Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2206. The Ministry provided their approval of the subdivision and subsequent Bylaw, and we are requesting a copy of the referrals provided for both of these approvals. We have further requested additional information from the TNRD, surrounding these approvals that were granted.

FOREST, LANDS, and NATURAL RESOURCES:

We received an email response from Kevin Cameron, Regional Manager for FOREST, LANDS, and NATURAL RESOURCES in early November, expressing that: Our concerns over (a) 'open grazing' of ranch animals and them having direct access to Sharpe Lake; (b) animal excrement affecting the quality of water; and (c) the open grazing use by the ranch owners on Crown Land and road R/W's, were not his "jurisdiction".

Since our letter, these concerns have only increased. The ranch has continued with their policy of allowing their animals to run on an 'open range' basis on the roadways, other private lands, and Crown Land areas. In addition to the obvious environmental impacts, it has become a serious liability and safety concern. We are not sure what would happen if a maintenance truck, or any other vehicles, hit any of these animals openly walking on the roadways?

The response from the TNRD on the approvals of the Subdivision and Bylaw 2206, provided that Ranch owners were required to abide by the rules and requirements of: (a) A Riparian Areas Assessment completed and accepted by the Ministry of Environment on December 19th, 2007; and (b) the Lakeshore

Development Guidelines of the TNRD. We have requested additional information on both of these requirements which we hope will assist and support our concerns over the deteriorating environmental condition of Sharpe Lake.

TNRD:

We thank Mr. Dan Wallace, Planner, TNRD, for his response of November 16th, to our requests concerning Bylaw 2206. We first note in your comments that “owners/occupiers of lands within 100 metres of the applicants property” were notified of this Bylaw and Public Hearing. We have canvassed a number of lot owners and as expressed in our original comments, no one recalls being notified and aware of this application. We note that the “100 metres” would only have 4 of the dozen+ lot owners having being contacted regardless. We would have anticipated that with practical and common sense, all the owners on such a small and affected lake would have been notified. We have attempted to research the actual Public Hearing minutes to see whether anyone actually attended, or were heard, and would appreciate receiving a copy of the same.

As suggested in our original letter, the basic standards of subdivision approvals should have been addressed at this Subdivision and Bylaw approval process. It should have included the suggested improvements on Taylor Road, restrictions on animals from Sharpe Lake, and problems with public use of roads and accesses. We would ask that a copy of the MOTH referral noted of November 7th, 2008, be provided to us. The TNRD letter further mentions that a “Riparian Areas Assessment” was completed and registered with the Ministry of Environment, and we would further request that a copy be provided to us.

The Planning Report on Bylaw 2206 further states that the “Ongoing implementation of the Lakeshore Development Guidelines will be encouraged”. We specifically note that the 'first' objective of these Guidelines are to “Protect the Environmental Quality of Lakes”, which is specifically what we are requesting. As an example: throughout this Fall,

livestock were openly provided direct access to Sharpe Lake at various points on both public and private lands, further deteriorating the water quality. While these Guidelines do mention specific requirements for agricultural perimeter fencing and other methods required protecting the 'impact' of water quality. In the case of Sharpe Lake, these serious environmental concerns need to be immediately addressed.

Thank you all for your responses, and we greatly encourage the reply to our concerns and requests. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

s.22

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Sukh Gill, Chief Administrative Officer, TNRD, sgill@tnrd.ca

Sally Watson, Area "E" Bonaparte Plateau, director.swatson@tnrd.ca

October 26th, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been owners and residents of property at Sharpe Lake^{s.22}
^{s.22} and are currently full time residents along with several others. We have witnessed a dramatic change in the level of services received; have serious concerns over the quality of Sharpe Lake; and continual access issues with the owners of the Sharpe Lake Ranch. These concerns are the basis for our requests being made to the Ministry of Highways; Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources; and the TNRD.

MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS:

The Sharpe Lake Road was last graded in May/2015 and since, has been subject to several washouts and considerable use. We would like it graded before winter conditions arrive. A grader was seen several weeks ago on the Eagan Lake Road for a few days, but stopped far short of Sharpe Lake Road. We realize that there may be a priority system for grading, but to only have Sharpe Lake Road graded once this year, is not acceptable. We further hope that this does not translate into a trend of eliminating further grading and winter plowing services for our area.

Sharpe Lake Ranch has continued with their arrogance in denying access through what is the FSR extension of Sharpe Lake Road, among other designated accesses in the area. This shows on both the TNRD mapping, and

Regional mapping of the snowmobile access corridors. We would like this access specifically reviewed, identified, and determined for public use.

Every year the cattle from the Ranch are openly grazed on the public Right of Ways of Sharpe Lake, and Taylor Roads. Over the last several weeks, 100's of cattle openly grazed, from the ranch with the two existing cattle guards on Sharpe Lake Road, to the end of the recreational properties on Taylor Road. They are a hazard, and make a hell of a mess. They also openly grazed on a number of the private recreational lands along Taylor Road in addition to the Crown lands including the forestry recreational site and lands adjacent to Sharpe Lake Road.

At the very least, both the sides of Sharpe Lake Road through the ranch private lands should be fenced. There was a previous cattle guard on Sharpe Lake Road near the Taylor Road intersection, that for some reason was removed by the ranch years ago. We are requesting that a cattle guard be established at the beginning of the recreational lots along Taylor Road, which would at least protect us from the "open grazing" policy of the ranch owners.

FOREST, LANDS, and NATURAL RESOURCES:

We have become very concerned with the 'open grazing' and ranch animals that have open access to Sharpe Lake. Animal excrement has seriously contributed to the growth of noxious weeds and affected the quality of water used by locals and tourists alike. Animals are housed adjacent to the lake and the ranch drainage flows directly into the lake. At the very least, the ranch should be required and responsible to re mediate this damage promptly.

We are seeking the Ministry to investigate the restriction of accesses around Sharpe Lake that are being arrogantly perpetrated by the ranch owners. They should also be concerned about the 'open grazing' policies of the ranch on Crown Lands and the Road Right of Ways.

TNRD:

It is our understanding that the ranch owners were granted approval for Site Specific Zoning under Bylaw No. 2206 sometime in 2008? We would like to have the information made available to us on what was approved and

accepted by the TNRD at that time, as we were never notified. We further understand from what we have investigated, that this involved the approval for subdivision of portions of the ranch lands on the West side of Sharpe Lake Road and Sharpe lake frontage.

If the basic standards of subdivision approval were addressed at that time it should have provided for improvements on Taylor Road, including the cattle guard suggested. It should have also restricted the keeping of animals within a safe distance from Sharpe Lake. It should have also required the additional protection and integrity of the water quality of Sharpe Lake and the Bonaparte River located to the East.

While we can appreciate that with such a rural location, it is sometimes easier to 'look the other way' when it comes to specific access, fencing, water quality, and other legal requirements. Regardless, our, and our neighbours quality of life should all be respected. We are asking for each Government Ministry and the TNRD to investigate and deal with our concerns and requests. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
s.22

From: [Schilling, Michelle J](#) TRAN:EX
To: [Cheverie, Lynn Ann](#) TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: 251451 - December 4 meeting with s.22 (Sharpe Lake Road)
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015 10:14:14 AM
Attachments: [Scan_20151204.pdf](#)

For FOI

From: Schilling, Michelle J TRAN:EX
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2015 4:30 PM
To: Polkinghorne, Elise TRAN:EX
Cc: Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX; Hubner, Todd B TRAN:EX
Subject: RE: 251451 - December 4 meeting with s.22 (Sharpe Lake Road)

FLNRO Rep and I met with s.22 Dec 4

- Reviewed topics and requests regarding fencing, cattleguards and road conditions. We also jointly inspected Taylor Road and Sharpe Lake Road.
- They requested road register information and mapping for Sharpe lake Road and Taylor Road - which I will provide shortly .
- They requested other documents relating to TNRD (a referral for bylaw 2206 and Riparian Assessment report) -- I will review our file and will advise them if we have copies. If there are records, then I will check with our admin staff to see if they can be released or whether FOI applies.

BTW we also met with the adjacent rancher later in the afternoon and reviewed their concerns as well.

Michelle Schilling

Area Manager Clinton-Bridge Lake, Cariboo District
T 250-395-8948 C s.17

From: Polkinghorne, Elise TRAN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Schilling, Michelle J TRAN:EX
Cc: Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX s.22
Subject: 251451 - December 4 meeting with

Hello Michelle,

I am writing the response for 251451. We decided to put it on hold until after your December 4th

meeting, pending any updates that may have to be included in the response. Can you provide me with an update on the outcome of the meeting?

Thanks,
Elise

Elise Polkinghorne
Senior Writer | Corporate Writing Services
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
5B - 940 Blanshard Street | Victoria, BC V8W 3E6
Phone: 250-387-7536

December 4th, 2015 Meeting at Sharpe Lake with Michelle Schilling, MOH; and Drew Buis, Forestry, Range Technician.

We want from MOH:

check crown land. Acres - ~~24~~ / it's acres

- 1) Assurance that ditching and maintenance will occur on portion of Sharpe Lake Road, from the existing cattle guard, to the Taylor Road intersection. Last year there was only a grader in May. Large puddle located at cattle guard, no ditching on balance of road, and washouts on both hills near Taylor Road Intersection;
- 2) A cattle guard and gate to be located on Taylor Road at the end of Ranch property, and before 1st access to lakeshore. (previous gate was at this location). It would not disrupt Ranch movement of cattle; would secure existing lots from cattle access; and solve the situation of 2015 (and every year) where cattle were driven to graze on lots and have direct access to lake for watering etc;
- 3) Fencing on both sides of Sharpe Lake Road from the existing cattle guard westward on deeded lands including Hydro R/W;
- 4) Fencing would also include additional cattle guard between deeded and adjacent Crown lands along Sharpe Lake Road;
- 5) Review of Sharpe Lake/Eagan Lake FSR status for providing access through to 3700 FSR; and
- 6) Implementation of the requirements of the TNRD Lakeshore Development Guidelines, and Riparian Areas Assessment accepted by the Ministry of Environment in December, 2007.

Items Required from MOH:

- Copy of "Details of Road" for Sharpe Lake Road, Taylor Road, and any connecting roads or Right of Ways;
- Copy of 'Referral' provided to TNRD for Subdivision and Bylaw No. 2206 approval in 2007-2008; *DL 1423.*
- Copy of Riparian Areas Assessment accepted by the Ministry of Environment on December 19, 2007 also requested from TNRD); and any other detailed road mapping or surveys surrounding Sharpe Lake.

*WATERED
DID and GG DO.*

*check.
By Law
2206.*

*check R2-E18
Feb 2008*
Page 10 of 11 RA-2015-54161

Want from Forestry:

- 1) Detailed mapping of grazing and use of Crown Lands currently leased to the Ranch;
- 2) Designation and requirements for "open" grazing for Ranch cattle on existing Crown Lands adjoining Sharpe Lake that have direct access to the Lake (and the Bonaparte River); and
- 3) Public access availability on existing Crown lands surrounding Sharpe Lake and public access for existing roads and trails.

We would appreciate any mapping and details that could be left with us.

Thank you.

Rodd RE