

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 9**

**Thursday, July 21, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dolores Funk  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire – via Zoom – left at 12:59 p.m.  
Annette Morgan – via Zoom  
Bob Motion  
Chris Newell – via Zoom  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Sarraah Storey – via Zoom – arrived at 11:20 a.m., left at 11:50 a.m., returned at 12:00 p.m.

Director Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers

Absent

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – via Zoom  
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – arrived at 12:54 p.m., left at 1:12 p.m.  
Teryn Cameron, Administration Summer Student – left at 12:05 p.m.  
Megan D’Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator (West) – via Zoom  
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 11:05 a.m., left at 11:40 a.m.  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - arrived at 11:05 a.m., left at 11:45 a.m.  
Justin Greer, Regional Economic Development Assistant – arrived at 11:41 a.m.  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 1:45 p.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 1:45 p.m.  
Crystal Miller, Accounting Clerk 1 – arrived at 11:48 a.m., left at 1:03 p.m.  
Jen Rensing, Protective Services Summer Student – left at 10:51 a.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services introduced Teryn Cameron, Administration Summer Student and Deborah Jones-Middleton introduced Jen Rensing, Protective Services Summer Student.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m.

**AGENDA &  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of July 21, 2022 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Board Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
June 30, 2022

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2022 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors)**

**Temporary Use Permit**

Temporary Use Permit Renewal  
Request TUP F-01-19  
-Electoral Area “F”

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-3

“That the Regional District Board approve a renewal of Temporary Use Permit F-01-19 for the Clear Creek Stockpile Site located on the property legally described as Remnant NW 1/4, Section 22, Township 19, Range 5, Coast District for a three-year duration.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding

- Temporary Use Permit renewals coming due in the near future
- Natural recovery and preferred method of reclamation
  - o Request reclamation area be planted with trees
  - o Consideration of noxious weeds
- Compensation to Electoral Area G (Houston/Topley) residents that have had to make concessions due to pipeline activity
  - o No movement regarding connectivity issues
  - o Significant increase in road use and traffic
  - o Impact to backcountry access
- Accommodation – minimal benefits
- Industry communication representatives are often not in the position long term which is creating communication challenges.

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ALL DIRECTORS)**

### **Municipal Referral**

**Town of Smithers Draft  
Official Community Plan and  
Zoning Bylaw Referral**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Parker

2022-9-4

“That staff inform the Town of Smithers that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no concerns with draft Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1935, 2022 and Draft Zoning Bylaw No. 1936, 2022.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **OTHER**

#### **Tenas Coal Project – Environmental Assessment: Application Review**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an outline of staff comments to the Environmental Assessment Office. He noted concerns regarding the minimal level of monitoring and public input outlined in Tenas Coal Project – EA Application.

The Board provided the following additional comments:

- Temporary housing – impacts to housing in communities
- Solid waste
  - o Clarity regarding volumes
  - o Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) cardboard
- Emergency Management
- Noise
  - o Baseline
  - o Social economic impacts
- Human trafficking
  - o Camps – education campaigns
  - o Company to address the issue.

**Tenas Coal Project  
Environmental Assessment:  
Application Review**

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-5

1. “That the Board ratify the comments provided by staff to the Environmental Assessment Office regarding the Tenas Project Environmental Assessment Certificate Application.

2. That the Board direct staff to write a letter identifying the Board’s additional comments regarding Housing, Solid Waste, Emergency Management, Noise and Human Trafficking to the Environmental Assessment Office.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS**

### **Diversion and Recycling**

#### **Vanderhoof Transfer Station -Electronics Pilot Program**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-9-6

1. "That the Board approve the plan for the pilot program for Electronics Material Collection and Removal from the Vanderhoof Transfer Station.
2. That the Board authorize staff to initiate the contract negotiations with SD 91 Nechako Lakes based on the terms and conditions of the draft contract provided in staff's memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Knockholt Landfill & Transfer Station – Recycling Depot Proposal**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Motion

2022-9-7

1. "That the Board allocate \$220,500 for the development of the new Recycling Depot at the Knockholt Landfill & Transfer Station.
2. And further, that the Board direct staff to bring forward budget actuals for funding the Knockholt Landfill & Transfer Station – Recycling Depot Proposal considering reprioritizing capital projects and reallocate funding and/or surplus metal recycling revenue; and/or any surplus capital funds from underbudget projects."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place regarding:

- Funding the Knockholt Landfill & Transfer Station – Recycling Depot
- Challenges for smaller electoral areas to fund capital projects
- Electoral Area G support of utilizing \$100,000 Northern Capital Planning Grant Funding
- Consistency and equality across the region for recycling depot service levels
- Consideration of option 3, 4 and 5 in the July 21, 2022 Knockholt Landfill & Transfer Station Recycling Depot Proposal memorandum.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Area D Transfer Station: Proposed New Hours of Operation**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Petersen

2022-9-8

"That the Board approve opening the Area D Transfer Station on Thursdays and approve reducing the weekday hours to 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for zero (0) additional man-hours per week."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### **Miscellaneous**

Proposed Site Name Changes Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Brienen

2022-9-9 "That the Board receive the Director of Environmental Services' Proposed Site Name Changes memorandum; and further that, RDBN Transfer Stations and Recycling Depot names include municipal and electoral area names."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will bring forward cost analysis for the signage replacement project.

### **Verbal Report**

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Environmental Services Operation Update

Phase 3 Expansion at Knockholt Landfill

- Weather challenges
  - o Equipment not able to work due to moisture
- Landfill liner to be complete July 22, 2022
- Positive movement forward
- Moving forward Environmental Services capital projects
- Operations as usual
- Cost recovery
  - o Moving forward
  - o Will include update at the RDBN September Board meeting
  - o Region-wide waste audit scheduled to be conducted July 25-29, 2022.

Environmental Services Verbal Report Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Fisher

2022-9-10 "That the Board receive the Environmental Services Verbal report."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Alternative Approval Process      Moved by Director Funk  
-Recreation Contribution      Seconded by Director Greenaway  
Service Establishment Bylaw  
No.1976, 1977, 1978 , and 1979

2022-9-11

1. "That for the purpose of obtaining approval for the Recreation Contribution Service Establishment Bylaws using the Alternative Approval Process, the fair determination of 10% of the total number of eligible electors within each service area be:
  - Bylaw No. 1976 – Electoral Area A - 405
  - Bylaw No. 1977 – Electoral Areas B and E - 236
  - Bylaw No. 1978 – Electoral Area C - 103
  - Bylaw No. 1979 – Electoral Area G - 69
2. That the deadline for receiving elector responses for the bylaws be Monday, September 12, 2022.
3. That the attached Elector Response Forms be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw No. 1983 Gowan Road      Moved by Director Funk  
Street Lighting Service      Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2022-9-12

"That Gowan Road Street Lighting Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1983, 2022 be given first, second and third reading this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2022."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022 Reserve Contribution      Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2022-9-13

"That the Board direct staff to place the surplus from the 2021 calendar year for major services into the Operational Reserves established for that service."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Public Event      Moved by Director Brien  
Participation Policy      Seconded by Director Fisher

2022-9-14

"That the Board direct staff to bring forward the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Public Event Participation Policy with revised wording for consideration."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Director Riis-Christianson removed himself from the meeting at 11:48 a.m. due to a conflict of interest regarding his employer being the Lakes District Museum Association.

COVID-19 Relief Funds

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Motion

2022-9-15

"That the Board approve the following applications for COVID-19 Relief Funds

**Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)**

- Fort St. James Slo-pitch Society – Insurance, fees and supplies - \$2,049

**Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)**

-Endako Hall Society – Insurance, property tax, hydro - \$10,524

-Regional Transit – Service delivery - \$3,000

**Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)**

-Lakes District Museum Association – Safety and cleaning supplies - \$792

**Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)**

-Nechako Valley Exhibition Society – Insurance - \$22,842."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson returned at 11:49 a.m.

Government of Canada Active  
Transportation Fund Highway  
35 Multi-use Pathway Feasibility  
Project

Moved by Director Funk  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2022-9-16

"That the Board approve entering into and executing the funding agreement with the Government of Canada for the Active Transportation Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

St. John Hospital Auxiliary  
Society – Letter of Support  
Request

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Motion

2022-9-17

"That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the St. John Hospital Auxiliary Society to be used for its funding applications for the Stuart Nechako Manor Bus project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Letter re: Nechako Reservoir Surchage Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-9-18 "That the Board ratify the letter to the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights regarding the Nechako Reservoir Surchage."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Reservoir surcharge
- Impacts to industry and communication with industry
- Impacts due to increased water levels
- Future presentation from Rio Tinto and Water Comptroller regarding the Nechako Reservoir system to the newly elected 2022 Board
- Consistent Communication representatives from industrial companies such as:
  - Rio Tinto
  - LNG
  - CN Rail
- Consideration of cumulative impacts.

**Break at 12:05 p.m. for lunch**

**Reconvened at 12:54 p.m.**

Departmental Quarterly Reports -2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Moved by Director Motion  
Seconded by Director Brienens

2022-9-19 "That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Departmental Quarterly Reports – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

2022-9-20 "That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fire Safety Act Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-9-21 "That the Board receive the Regional Fire Chief's Fire Safety Act memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Moved by Director Motion  
Seconded by Director Fisher

2022-9-22 "That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison's Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Growing Opportunities  
Newsletter and Podcast Update Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-9-23 "That the Board receive the Agriculture Coordinator's Growing  
Opportunities Newsletter and Podcast Update memorandum."  
  
(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

Ministry of Advanced Education  
and Skills Training - Veterinary  
Funding Announcement Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Parker

2022-9-24 "That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from  
the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training –  
Veterinary Funding Announcement."  
  
(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Assessment – Invitation:  
Meet with BC Assessment at  
the Union of B.C. Municipalities  
Convention Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-9-25 "That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from  
BC Assessment – Invitation: Meet with BC Assessment at the  
Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention."  
  
(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ACTION LISTS**

Action Lists – March, April  
and May, 2022 Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2022-9-26 "That the Board receive the Action Lists for March, April and  
May, 2022."  
  
(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

#### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

ALR Non-Farm Use Application  
No. 1247, Electoral Area A Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-9-27 "That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1247 be  
recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for  
approval."  
  
(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Other**

Provincial Response to  
June 1, 2022 Letter  
Re: Step Code

Moved by Director Funk  
Seconded by Director Brienen

2022-9-28

“That the Board receive the provincial response from the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing regarding the BC Energy Step Code.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Letter does not address the RDBN questions asked
- Province is considering provisions to the building permit if geothermal heating or a heat pump is installed
  - Larger municipalities have indicated they are not in support
- Awaiting details in the future draft BC Building Code
- Rebates for heat pumps – electrical heat only.

Write a Letter to MLA Nathan  
Cullen and Acting Minister  
Responsible for Housing  
Re: Step Code

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-9-29

“That the Board forward the Provincial Response to RDBN June 1, 2022 Letter regarding Step Code to Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine and the Honourable Murray Rankin, Acting Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing; and further, that the Board outline solutions to address ongoing issues regarding housing availability in northern B.C. and impacts from implementation of the BC Energy Step Code.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Village of Fraser Lake – Update Director Storey noted that CityWest is in the process of installing fibre to each home in Fraser Lake.

Village of Burns Lake - Update Director Funk provided an update regarding the following:

- Endako Weir Presentation
  - Informed Council unqualified to understand studies
  - Council requested response regarding erosion, Village of Burns Lake Sewage Lagoons and low-lying property septic fields on Burns Lake
    - Any issues are existing and not a concern of the proponent
  - Only committed to monitoring the project for 2 years
  - A number of concerns moving forward
- Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) – Burns Lake Timbermen
  - Will start beginning of October 2022

## VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Centennial Project
  - o 2023 marks the 100 year anniversary of the Village of Burns Lake
  - o Wanting to document 100 year review of indigenous and non indigenous community
  - o First Nations support of project moving forward
- Reaching out to GMHL Member in regard to First Nations Liaison knowledge and communication

### Rural/Agriculture Committee -Update

Director Parker mentioned that he continues to address the veterinarian shortage issue in the region and province. He met with the BC Cattlemen's Association regarding the Economic Impact Study. The BC Cattlemen's Association will undertake the project. Director Parker also has a meeting scheduled with Mark Barnes, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, University of Northern British Columbia.

### Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) – Update

Director Lambert commented that he has been working on reinstating a post office on the Southside of Francois Lake. A Canada Post Inspector inspected potential sites and a candidate is being considered for the Postmaster position.

### Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update

Director Riis-Christianson also attended the Endako Weir Presentation at the Village of Burns Lake and voiced unease regarding the proponents not wanting to share their studies. He thanked Jason Llewellyn, RDBN Director of Planning for reaching out to provincial staff. Province has indicated it is attempting to work with the proponent to address some of the issues.

### Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update

Director Greenaway provided the following update:  
-Fort St. James New Seniors Complex Land Blessing  
-Met with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding Sowchea Road  
-Joined the District of Fort St. James for a Salmon Day Cook-off at the Fort St. James National Historic Site on July 16, 2022.

### District of Vanderhoof – Update

Chair Thiessen spoke of the following;  
-Vanderhoof Culture Centre Grand Opening

- o Peter Rodseth's carving
  - o Took 6 years to complete
- o Minister Osborne and Cullen were in Vanderhoof today to visit the Centre
- o The building itself resembles a pit house used by Carrier people

- Concert in the Park – July 23, 2022.

### Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Motion  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-30

"That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Motion  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-31

“In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Sections 90(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations and 90(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Boundary Expansion/RBA) must be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Motion  
Seconded by Director Brien

2022-9-32

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:46 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Gerry Thiessen, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
Corporate Services