

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 14**

**Thursday, December 15, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Shane Brienen – via Zoom at 10:04 a.m.  
Leroy Dekens  
Martin Elphee  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom  
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
– arrived at 10:38 a.m.  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at  
10:06 a.m., left at 10:10 a.m., returned at 10:37 a.m., left at  
10:52 a.m.  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other Mark Fisher, Telkwa – left at 11:46 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

**2022-14-1** “That the Board Meeting Agenda of December 15, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2022

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2022 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Land Referral**

Crown Land Referral  
No. 6406996 Electoral Area G  
(Houston/Granisle Rural)

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2022-14-3

"That Crown Land Application No. 6406996 comment sheet be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Other**

Board of Variance

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-4

"That each Board member nominate a person eligible to be appointed to the Board of Variance and submit that person's name and contact information to the Planning Department."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Purchase of a New 53'  
Walking-floor Trailer

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-14-5

"That the Board approve the purchase of a new Titan 53' Walking Floor Trailer for a total of \$158,980 plus applicable taxes."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Local Government Leadership Academy – Elected Officials Seminar Series 2023  
-March 15-17, 2023, Prince George, B.C.

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-6

“That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the LGLA Elected Officials Seminar Series 2023 from March 15-17, 2023 in Prince George, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Connectivity Committee  
-Terms of Reference  
Amendment

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-14-7

“That Section 5 of the Connectivity Committee Terms of Reference be amended as follows:

**5. Membership**

- a) The Committee shall consist of all Electoral Area Directors;
- b) The Chair of the RDBN shall appoint a Chair of the Committee;
- c) The Chair of the RDBN Board is an ex-officio member of the Committee.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference Amendment

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-8

“That the Board amend section 4(b) of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC) Terms of Reference to the following:

The RSWAC will elect a Chair for the RSWAC from among its voting members at the first meeting of each year.

Further, that the Board amend other sections as identified.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

RDBN Committee  
Appointments 2023

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-9

"That the Board ratify the Committee Appointments for 2023 as amended to include Director Riis-Christianson to the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee to bring the Rural Directors to three (3)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Appointments 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Newell

2022-14-10

"That the Board ratify the following appointments for 2023:

Bankers:

Bulkley Valley Credit Union

Lawyers:

Stewart McDannold Stuart, Victoria, B.C.

Young Anderson, Vancouver, B.C.

Carvello Law Corp., Victoria, B.C.

Election Officers:

Cheryl Anderson, Chief Election Officer

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Chief Election Officer

Cheque Signing Authority Any two (2) of:

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson

Director from Village of Burns Lake

Director from Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Chief Administrative Officer

Chief Financial Officer

Director of Corporate Services

Auditors:

Beswick Hildebrandt Lund CPA."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Carbon Reduction and  
Climate Change Bylaw

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2022-14-11

"That Carbon Reduction and Climate Change Reserve Bylaw No. 1990, 2022 be given first, second, third reading and adoption this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022 Five Year Financial Plan  
Amendment

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-12

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1992, 2022 be given first, second and third readings and adoption this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Tangible Capital Asset Policy  
and Tangible Capital Asset  
Disposal Policy

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-14-13

"That the Board approves the Revised Tangible Capital Asset Policy and the New Tangible Capital Asset Disposal Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Revision to Protective  
Clothing and Footwear Policy

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-14

"That the Board approves the revised Protective Clothing and Footwear Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid for Area E  
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)  
Southside Volunteer Fire  
Department

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2022-14-15

"That the Board approve allocating \$3,856.65 in Grant in Aid monies to the Southside Volunteer Fire Department for a propane heater for their meeting room."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Grant in Aid for Area F  
(Vanderhoof Rural)  
Vanderhoof Children's Theater

Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-16

"That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Grant in Aid monies to the Vanderhoof Children's Theater for the Little Mermaid Production."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter of Support for  
Connecting Communities  
BC Program Telus Projects

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-14-17

"That the Board provide letters of support for the projects proposed by Telus for the December intake of the Connecting Communities BC Program."

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-18

"That Motion 2022-14-17 be amended to exclude the Village of Granisle and include Electoral Area "G" (Houston/Topley) and Topley Landing."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

"That the question be called on Motion 2022-14-17 as amended."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Excluding the Village of Granisle
  - o Telus' assurance that it would not go into competition with the Village of Granisle
- Short time frame in which to provide a letter of support
- PureFibre meaning
- Excluding District of Vanderhoof
- Adequate and cost-effective service to communities
- Finding innovative ideas to provide service to unserved and underserved areas
- Satellite options
- Future proofing services
- Building capacity and infrastructure for the entire region
- Concerns regarding clarity of information from Telus, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and funding partners
- Project boundary changes

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Service levels:
  - o Highway 35
  - o Fort St. James and area
  - o Cluculz Lake
  - o Additional discussions in the future
- Advocating for the Provincial Government to ensure applicants complete projects as promised.

Letter of Support for  
Smithers Skate Park Society

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-19

"That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the Smithers Skate Park Society to be used for its funding applications."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Hospital Point Recreation  
Site – Expression of Interest

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2022-14-20

"That the Board endorse a project to develop Hospital Point Park as a recreation site."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Budget Planning

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2022-14-21

"That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Budget Planning memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Accessibility Act – Regional  
District Requirements

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2022-14-22

"That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's *Accessibility Act* -Regional District Requirements."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Grant in Aid Under \$2,500  
Approval Update

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-23

"That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Grant in Aid Under \$2,500 Approval Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid – Application  
Update

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-24

"That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Grant in Aid – Application Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

Lakes District Airshed  
Management Society  
-Appointment of Directors to  
the Society

Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2022-14-25

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Lakes District Airshed Management Society - Appointment of Directors to the Society."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ACTION LISTS**

Action Lists

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2022-14-26

"That the Board receive the Action lists for June, July, August, September and October, 2022."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



## VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire provided the following update:
- Annual Cram the Cruiser event with the RCMP
    - o Distribute approximately 25 hampers to residents
    - o Significant decrease in cash donations from previous years
  - Teleconference Meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs and Municipal Mayors and Regional District Chairs
    - o Brining forward the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance
  - Asset Management Plan.

- Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) – Update Director Stoltenberg commented:
- working to get up to date on the happenings in Electoral Area A
  - Speaking to groups regarding funding opportunities
  - Meeting with Town of Smithers and Village of Telkwa Mayors.

- District of Vanderhoof -Update Director Moutray noted the District of Vanderhoof is moving into Strategic Planning.

- Electoral Area “G” (Houston/ Granisle Rural) - Update Director Newell spoke of the following:
- Vehicle safety on the Morice and Morice Owen Forest Service Road
    - o Three accidents in November, 2022
    - o Lack of updates from Coastal GasLink
  - Bulkley Valley District Hospital continues to not accept unvaccinated COVID-19 visitors where other hospitals in the Province are allowing unvaccinated visitors.

- Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update Director Greenaway provided the following update:
- North Central Local Government Association Table Officers meeting
    - o Met with Minister Heyman and Cullen
  - Air quality issues
  - Nak’azdli Whut’en New Business – Deadwood Innovations
    - o The business will remove deadwood from the forest and manufacture engineered wood products.

- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) Director Brienen noted that he will be meeting with Ron Poole, Consultant, Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) in regard to the Teleconference with the newly appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs.

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

- Town of Smithers – Update Director Atrill provided the following update:
- New Council and the budget process
  - New staff positions
    - o Economic Development Officer
    - o Three year externally funded Climate Action Specialist
  - Alpenhorn Statue vandalized
  - Hudson Bay Mountain Resort opening December 3, 2022.
- Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) – Update Director Lambert spoke of the following:
- Southside Post Office opening
  - Butcher Shop and Grocery Store Opening.
- District of Fort St. James -Update Director Elphee provided the following update:
- Meeting with RCMP Construction Contractor in 2023
  - New Stuart Lake Hospital Construction
    - o Demolition of the old hospital planned for 2025
  - In the process of submitting grant applications for improvements and expansion at the Fort St. James Perison Airport.
- Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update Director Moon commented that:
- Vanderhoof Parade of Lights was successful and had good participation
  - Nechako Nordics completed its grooming shed and will be hosting an official opening in January 2023
  - Blackwater Gold Project moving ahead
  - Canfor's Plateau Sawmill is closing for 4 weeks
  - Intending to visit the Nechako Valley Fall Fair Grounds to review funding received.
- Village of Telkwa – Update Director Dekens noted that the Village of Telkwa Council has started budget discussions with asset management as a key consideration.
- Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update Director Riis-Christianson provided the following update:
- Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network, informal province wide organization, helps build capacity and understanding regarding connectivity issues met in early November
  - Met with representatives from the following to discuss funding challenges:
    - o Lakes District Fall Fair Association
    - o The Link.

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

Village of Fraser Lake – Update Director Storey commented:

- Attended North Central Local Government Association Meeting
  - o Completing bylaw review process
    - Member engagement in March 2023
  - o Annual Report to be released prior to the AGM
  - o Strategic Plan – 2023-2026 will be provided to members in December 2022
  - o Aquaculture Committee
    - Discussion on transition to land base aquaculture system in Report provided
    - In response to the wild salmon fishery
    - Aquaculture opportunities in the north
  - o Advocacy responses regarding stumpage rates
    - completing review of structure of system of tabular rates – will engage government more
  - o Provincial Blue Book Value of cars for provincial sales tax
    - Needs advocacy
  - o Will send e-mail to Board members in regard to NCLGA topics for discussion
  - o NCLGA AGM
  - o Fraser Lake
    - Had a number of major break-ins
    - Funding for water tower
  - o Appreciation to Chair Parker for his work regarding the water issues at the Fraser Lake trailer park.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- o Attended Artemis Gold Inc. Blackwater Project Community Liaison Committee
  - Good questions
  - Discussed employment and waste management
- o Fraser Lake Trailer Parker
  - Province providing regular updates
  - Water to be turned on today
- o Participated in the Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School Grad Transitions Panel
  - Good opportunity to interact with students.

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

Receipt of Verbal  
Reports

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2022-14-27

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Letter of Support for  
Connecting Communities  
BC Program Telus Projects

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-28

"That the Board provide letters of support for the projects proposed by Telus for the December intake of the Connecting British Columbia Program, excluding the District of Vanderhoof and including Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter of Support for  
Cycle 16 Society

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2022-14-29

"That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the Cycle 16 Society for their application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program for Design of Phase 3 of the commuter trail."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

Federal Government  
Bill C-21 Amendments

Director Riis-Christianson brought forward concerns regarding the Federal Governments Bill C-21 Amendments and impacts to rural northern residents.

**Break for lunch 12:10 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:34 p.m**

**NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)**

Write a Letter to the Honourable Justin Trudeau and Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley  
Re: Federal Government Bill C-21 Amendments

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2022-14-30

"That the Board write a letter opposing the latest amendments to Bill C-21, that if approved would prohibit many firearms used for hunting and that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's position in the matter be forwarded to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister and Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena – Bulkley Valley."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2022-14-31

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c) and 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:  
• Labour relations  
• Connectivity.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2022-14-32

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:41 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services