

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 1**

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Shane Brienen – arrived at 10:14 a.m., left at 10:57 a.m.,  
returned at 11:16 a.m., left at 1:06 p.m., returned at 1:20 p.m.,  
left at 1:49 p.m.  
Leroy Dekens  
Martin Elphee  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey – arrived at 10:58 a.m.  
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - arrived at 10:06 a.m.  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development –  
arrived at 11:58 a.m., left at 12:04 p.m.  
Steve Davis, Building Inspector – arrived at 11:07 a.m., left at  
11:41 a.m.  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at  
12:51 p.m., left at 12:55 p.m.  
Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison – arrived at 12:51 p.m., left  
at 12:56 p.m.  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – via  
Zoom – left at 12:04 p.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:57 a.m.,  
left at 11:41 a.m., returned at 12:58 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other Trevor Krisher, Alternate Director, Electoral Area A  
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

**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 Storey

2023-1-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of January 26, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2022

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-1-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2022 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Minutes  
-January 12, 2023

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-1-3

"That the Committee of the Whole Minutes of January 12, 2023 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **NORTHWEST BC RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE (RBA) – Ron Poole, Principal, Poole Consulting Ltd. RE: RBA Orientation**

Chair Parker welcomed Ron Poole, Principal, Poole Consulting Ltd.

Mr. Poole Provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance**

- What is the RBA?
- RBA Vision
- RBA Goals & Objectives
- Chronology
  - o 2014-2018
  - o 2019
  - o 2020 & 2021
  - o 2022
  - o Moving Forward – 2023.

**DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

**NORTHWEST BC RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE (RBA) – Ron Poole, Principal, Poole Consulting Ltd. RE: RBA Orientation**

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Provincial surplus
- Continued advocacy
- Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG) Funding
- Updating Imports/Exports Study
- Updating RBA capital project information in the future
  - o Utilize a consultant and would be dependent on funding and if required
- Steering Committee
  - o Representatives from the three Regional Districts
  - o Potentially appointing additional representatives/female delegation
    - Discuss further if requested
- The Honourable Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine and Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship has indicated his desire to continue to be included in the RBA file
- Impacts of development have been significant
  - o Individualized community impacts
  - o Community positions with the Province regarding future projects
- Premier Horgan's promises at his closing speech at the 2019 Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention concerning RBA
- Connections and relationships with Ministers and Premier Eby
- Continually advocating for the RBA with Ministers, Minister Staff, MLAs and MPs.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Poole for attending the meeting.

**ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

**Bylaw for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Rezoning Application

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

RZ A-02-22 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

Seconded by Director Dekens

Reading – Rezoning Bylaw

No. 1993, 2023 Electoral Area A

(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2023-1-4

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1993, 2023 be given first and second reading this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1993, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Bylaw for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Rezoning Application Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
RZ A-01-22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Seconded by Director Greenaway  
– Rezoning Bylaw No. 1980, 2022  
Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural)

2023-1-5

1. “That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1980, 2022.
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1980, 2022 be given third reading this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.
3. And that adoption not be considered until a covenant is registered on title, to the satisfaction of the Planning Department.”

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-1-6

“That Motion 2023-1-5 #3 be amended to include: and further that the applicant be requested to hold engagement with the Town of Smithers.”

Opposed: Director Dekens CARRIED  
Director Elphee  
Director Lambert  
Director Moon  
Director Newell  
Director Stoltenberg

(All/Directors/Majority)

“That the question be called on Motion 2023-1-5 as amended.”

Opposed: Director Dekens CARRIED  
Director Lambert  
Director Moon  
Director Newell  
Director Stoltenberg

(All/Directors/Majority)

**Bylaw for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading (Cont'd)**

The following was discussed:

- The applicant met the engagement requirements in the rezoning process, held a meeting with residents in the area.
- The application was referred to the Town of Smithers but the applicant did not meet directly with the Town.
- Staff advised that a meeting between the applicant and the Town after the public hearing and before adoption of Bylaw 1980 would trigger the requirement for another public hearing.
- Staff advised that if 3<sup>rd</sup> reading is given 3<sup>rd</sup> reading must be rescinded prior to holding another public hearing.

**Bylaw for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading and Adoption**

Rezoning Application Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
RZ A-01-22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading and Seconded by Director Dekens  
Adoption – Rezoning Bylaw  
No. 1984, 2022 Electoral Area A  
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2023-1-7

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1984, 2022.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1984, 2022 be given third reading and adoption this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Other**

Advisory Planning  
Commission Member  
Appointment

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-8

"That the Board appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Planning Commissions as recommended by each Electoral Area Director for the 2023-2026 term:

**Electoral Area A (Smithers / Telkwa Rural)**

Andrew Watson, Sandra Hinchliffe, Bob Posthuma, Natalie Trueit, Alan Koopmans

**Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)**

Marvin Strimbold, Lynn Synotte, Valerie Anderson, Ed Martens, Bob Saul, Robert Currie, Corrine George, Daniella Oake

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

Carrie Constantine, Jonathan Ouellette, Morgan Davis, Dalphena Snively, Cam McCormick, Bob Grill

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

Shelley Campbell, Art Blomquist, Trevor Tapp, Dave Brown

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

Vicki Hill, Norbert Mund, Russ Skillen, Jason Jubinville, Elizabeth Palmer

**Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)**

Barb Ephrom, Kelly Gehrmann, Mike Pritchard, Ben Rodts, Henry Klassen

**Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)**

Tom Euverman, Elijah Newell, Mary Robinson, Denise Tait, Carol Gibson."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**Land Referral**

Crown Land Application  
Referral No. 6409410  
Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake  
Rural)

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-9

"That Crown Land Application No. 6409410 comment sheet be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## Oil and Gas Commission Referral

Prince Rupert Gas  
Transmission Project Permit  
Extension Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-10

"That staff be directed to inform TC Energy that the Board's October 14, 2014 letter remains valid and contains the RDBN's comments in regard to the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project permit extension application."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- The need for meaningful dialogue well in advance of construction
- Review and update of 2014 RDBN Report outlining impacts from construction and development of industrial projects
- City of Terrace position regarding future industrial projects and their commitment to the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA).

## PARKS AND TRAILS

Electoral Areas B and E  
Parks and Trails Master Plan Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-11

"That the Board authorize staff to enter into a contract with Lees and Associates for the completion of a Parks and Trails Master Plan for Electoral Areas B and E."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recreation Contribution  
Grant Program Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-1-12

"That the Board review the terms of reference, policy document, and application documents for the Recreation Contribution Grant Program and direct staff to do the following:

1. Provide the documents to municipalities participating in the service for comment; and
2. Report back to the Board with recommendations regarding approval of the Terms of Reference and Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**BUILDING INSPECTION**

Section 57 Notice on Title  
2474 Highway 27 – Electoral  
Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

No comments were received from the property owner.

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-13

“That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the Community Charter relating to land legally described as Lot 38, District Lot 314, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 9563 (2474 Highway 27).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Section 57 Notice on Title  
17011 Turner Frontage Road  
– Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof  
Rural)

Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-14

1. “That the Board receive the written submission provided by the property owner on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the Community Charter relating to land legally described as Lot 19, Section 10, Township 13, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 7053 (17011 Turner Frontage Road).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Section 57 Notice on Title  
2605 Fowler Road – Electoral  
Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

No Comments were received from the property owner.

Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-15

“That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the Community Charter relating to land legally described as Block C of the South East ¼ of District Lot 940, Cariboo District – 2605 Fowler Rd.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Committee Meeting  
Recommendations  
-January 12, 2023

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-16

"That the Board approve the January 12, 2023 Committee Meeting Recommendations 1 and 2 as written:

### **Committee of the Whole – January 12, 2023**

#### **Recommendation 1:**

##### **Re: Emergency Support Services Program Guide**

"That the Board send a letter to Minister Ma of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to identify the RDBN's concerns with the Provincial Emergency Support Services Program Guide, and copy the letter to the EMCR ESS program, UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee, and all regional districts."

#### **Recommendation 2:**

##### **Re: Write a letter to Premier David Eby re: Bill C-21**

"That the Board write a letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier requesting his position regarding the Federal Government's Amendments to Bill C- 21, an Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

North Central Local  
Government Association  
Annual General Meeting &  
Convention and Resolution  
Deadline

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-17

"That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the 2023 North Central Local Government Association AGM & Convention from May 9-12, 2023 in Dawson Creek, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Vehicle Purchase

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-1-18

"That the Board authorize early 2023 budget approval for the purchase of a new Ford Escape Hybrid and that the cost for this vehicle will be included in the Building Inspection 2023 budget and that the funds to pay for this vehicle will come from reserves."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- o Concerns regarding access to parts for electric vehicles
- o Reserve funds to be utilized to purchase vehicle
- o RDBN vehicles remain in the fleet for long periods
- o Asset management planning
- o Challenging supply chain markets
- o Costs for fleet vehicle use vs. personal vehicle use.

Procurement Policy

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-19

"That the Board approves an amendment to the Procurement Policy to increase Section 7 (C)(b) from \$5,000 to \$10,000."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Change of Signing Authority  
for Bulkley Valley Credit Union

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-20

"That the following individuals be appointed as signing authority for the Bulkley Valley Credit Union accounts:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Curtis Helgesen	Chief Administration Officer
Cheryl Anderson	Director of Corporate Services
John Illes	Chief Financial Officer
Mark Parker	Chair
Shane Brien	Vice-Chair
Michael Riis-Christianson	Director
Henry Wiebe	Director."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Northern Development Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Local Government Internship Seconded by Director Dekens  
Program

2023-1-21

"That the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust for a grant of up to \$50,000 to host an intern under the Local Government Internship Program. And, that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako commits to providing sufficient financial and staffing resources, along with training and professional development opportunities while hosting the intern."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community-Building Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Fund BC – Area A (Smithers/ Seconded by Director Atrill  
Telkwa Rural) Smithers Golf  
and Country Club – Pumphouse  
Project

2023-1-22

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$50,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Pumphouse project at the Smithers Golf and Country Club, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$50,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community-Building Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Fund BC – Area (Smithers/ Seconded by Director Dekens  
Telkwa Rural) Smithers  
Curling Club – Ice Plant  
Replacement Project

2023-1-23

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$200,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to an Ice Plant Replacement project at the Smithers Curling Club, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$200,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community-Building Fund BC – Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Fraser Lake Recreation Complex Heat Reclaim Project Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-24

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$175,000 of Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Heat Reclaim project at the Fraser Lake Recreation Complex, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$175,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Development Northern Healthy Communities Fund RDBN Application for Clearview Landfill Expansion

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-25

"That the Board supports the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's application to Northern Development Initiative Trust – Northern Healthy Communities Fund Capital Program for the Clearview Landfill Early Expansion Project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2023 Regional Business Forum – March 28-29, 2023 Telkwa, B.C.

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-1-26

"That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the 2023 Regional Business Forum from March 28-29, 2023, in Telkwa, BC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Smithers Mountain Bike Association – Letters of Support Request

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-27

“That the Board provide Letters of Support to Smithers Mountain Bike Association to be used for its funding applications to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program and the Destination Development Fund.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Network of Emergency Support Service Teams (NESST) Society

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-28

“That the Board approve RDBN employees to continue to participate in the implementation of the NESST conferences on behalf of the Network of Support Services Teams Society.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Break for lunch 12:04 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 12:51 p.m.**

Departmental Quarterly Reports – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-29

“That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services’ Departmental Quarterly Reports – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Consumer Price Index

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-1-30

“That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Consumer Price Index and Additional information with respect to Consumer Price Index memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Report on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-1-31 "That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison Report on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

RDBN Letter RE: Veterinarian Shortage in BC - Information Sharing Request Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-1-32 "That the Board ratify the RDBN Letter to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills regarding Veterinarian Shortage in BC – Information Sharing Request."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community Energy Association – Charge North Communications Plan Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-1-33 "That the Board receive the correspondence from the Community Energy Association regarding Charge North Communication Plan."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

North West Regional Hospital District – Physician Recruitment in the Northwest Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-1-34 "That the Board receive the correspondence from the North West Regional Hospital District regarding Physician Recruitment in the Northwest; and further, that the Board write a letter regarding Physician Recruitment to the Minister of Health."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Union of B.C. Municipalities Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Canada Community Building Seconded by Director Storey  
Fund BC

2023-1-35 "That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities regarding the Canada Community-Building Fund BC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

#### **Oil and Gas Commission Referral**

Pacific Trails Pipeline Project Moved by Director McGuire  
Permit Extensions Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-1-36 "That staff be directed to inform Enbridge that the Board's January 26, 2018 letter remains valid and contains the RDBN's comments in regard to Pacific Trails Pipeline Projects permit extension applications."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Utilizing existing camp locations for future development as well as consulting with municipalities regarding available land for development/use
- Industry consultation with the RDBN as soon as possible for proposed projects.

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

Town of Smithers – Update Director Atrill noted that the Town of Smithers is working on its Strategic Priorities.

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) – Update Director Lambert provided the following update:

- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum January 17-19, 2023 in Prince George
- Connected with the three First Nations communities in Electoral Area E regarding senior housing and potential utilization of Hospital Point
- Development of a Community Plan for the Southside of Francois Lake
- Helipads in Electoral Area E.

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

District of Fort St. James

-Update

Director Elphee spoke of the following:

- Sinclair Group – Apollo Forest Products Ltd. recent curtailment and possible return to operations
- Hampton Lumber has started operations of its new Fort St. James Sawmill
- Physician recruitment and meet and greet of new physician to the community
- U18 triple-A male division league game and U-18 triple-A female league game at the outdoor rink at Ernie Sam Memorial Arena in Fort St. James January 21-22, 2023
- Caledonia Classic Sled Dog Race to take place February 3-5, 2023.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Director Moon provided the following update:

- Impacts regarding recent mill closure announcements by Canfor in the northwest
- Community optimism regarding the progress at the Blackwater Gold Project
- Artemis Gold Inc – permitting for the Blackwater Gold Project to be complete in spring 2023 for an additional accommodation of 150 workers
- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum
- Met the new manager of Rio Tinto
- Planning to attend the Nechako Valley Exhibition Society's AGM.

Village of Telkwa – Update

Director Dekens commented:

- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum
- Village of Telkwa has started 2023 budget discussions
- Five-year draft Strategic Plan being reviewed
- Invitation to attend the Village of Telkwa and RDBN Business Forum March 28 & 29, 2023 in Telkwa.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update

Director Riis-Christianson noted the following:

- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum virtually
  - o Encouraging comment to assist rural and remote communities the Federal/Provincial Government need to improve connectivity now, prior to their 2027 timeline
- Attended Topley Volunteer Fire Department Long-term employee service awards
  - o Two members received 25-year service awards – very commendable
- Met with a number of RDBN rural directors to discuss connectivity issues
- Wanting to meet with Internet Service Provider's at a future Connectivity Committee Meeting
- Consolidation of Shaw and Rogers



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

Village of Fraser Lake – Update Director Storey provided the following update:

- Met with CN
  - o Indicated they would clean up the CN staging site at White Swan Park
  - o Discussed land management and purchase of CN land
- Congratulations to Director Greenaway on her appointment to the Northern Medical Programs Trust
- Fraser Lake Community experienced a fire outside fire protection – desire to discuss expanding fire protection.

Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire noted the following:

- Held a Town Hall meeting
  - o Approximately 45-50 people were in attendance
  - o RCMP in attendance in red serge to provide a letter of agreement to commit members in the community for two days per week
  - o BC Housing attended the meeting virtually
    - 12 unit seniors BC Housing Project to begin construction in August 2023
- Moving forward with Granisle marina upgrades
  - o Grant applications for dock, break water and piling improvements
- 2023 Budget process.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural) – Update

Director Stoltenberg mentioned the following:

- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum
  - o Attended an informative crisis management workshop
- In discussions with the Town of Smithers and the Smithers Curling Club regarding Ice Plant Replacement Project
- Meeting with the Smithers Golf and Country Club regarding Pumphouse Project.

District of Vanderhoof  
-Update

Director Moutray provided the following update:

- Sawmill curtailments and closures front and centre
- Strategic Planning
- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
- Vanderhoof Aquatic Centre closure due to vandalism in December, 2022.

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

### Electoral Area G (Houston/ Granisle Rural) – Update

Director Newell provided an update regarding:

- Shutdown of Canfor – Houston Sawmill
- HRVA Dinner January 26, 2023
  - o Incredible volunteer participation
  - o Expressed appreciation for the volunteers.

### Village of Burns Lake – Update

Director Wiebe noted the following:

- Reviewing 2023 budget
- 2023 Burns Lake Centennial Celebrations
  - o Celebrations throughout the year
  - o Main event August 18-20, 2023
- Burns Lake Timbermen playing the Braves Alumni on January 28, 2023
- Submitting grant application to complete Richmond Loop Intersection.

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

Director Greenaway commented:

- Invited to participate on the District of Fort St. James Housing Committee
- HRVA Luncheon – great volunteerism
- ATV Club Porker Ride – February 18, 2023.

### District of Houston – Update

Director Brienen provided the following update:

- Canfor Houston Sawmill Closure
  - o Thanked everyone for their support
- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
  - o Encouraged by First Nations participation
  - o Increased Provincial Ministers, MLAs attendance, as well as the Premier
  - o Dialogue is not as open as in past years
  - o Forum has changed from past years.

### Chair Parker – Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) – Update

Chair Parker provided an update regarding:

- Recognized the benefits of logging truck traffic
- Fraser Lake Trailer Park water issues
  - o Past management is no longer in place
  - o Province is managing property
  - o Planning improvements when weather permits to ensure that there is access to water
- Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) RAC Meeting
  - o Chair Parker has been elected to the Board
- Veterinarian Shortage
  - o Economic Impact Study nearing completion
    - Developing strategy to share study
- Meeting with RDBN staff and Binche Whut'en January 27, 2023.

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

Receipt of Verbal  
Reports

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Brienen

2023-1-37

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

Decriminalization in B.C.

Director Storey brought forward concerns regarding the decriminalization of people who use drugs in B.C. Health Canada provided an exemption to B.C. from January 31, 2023 until January 31, 2026. Discussion took place regarding the need for communities to have bylaws in place and concerns regarding the lack of a robust training program for police officers and municipalities. RCMP in some communities indicated that the courts have not been willing to except charges for the past two years. The importance of treatment facilities in the locations where the persons live. The Town of Smithers raised the need for treatment facilities at the 2022 UBCM Convention and was informed that programs have not been planned for Smithers.

Staff will bring forward information from communities that have drafted/implemented Controlled Substance Bylaws.

Union of B.C. Municipalities is hosting a webinar on February 15, 2023 to discuss decriminalization with Ministry Staff and the BC Center for Disease Control. Staff will forward information.

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-1-38

"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
- First Nations Memorandum of Understanding
- RBA."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-1-39

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:51 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