

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 6**

**Thursday, May 18, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom  
Shane Brienen  
Martin Elphee  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell – via Zoom  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom  
Henry Wiebe

Director Absent Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa

Alternate Director Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Jason Berlin, Senior Building Inspector – arrived at 1:06 p.m., left at 1:08 p.m.  
Megan D’arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – arrived at 11:43 a.m., left at 12:15 p.m.  
Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison – arrived at 1:17 p.m., left at 1:30 p.m.  
Cameron Hart, Economic Development Assistant – arrived at 1:00 p.m., left at 1:22 p.m.  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jordan Illes, FireSmart Summer Student  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 1:15 p.m.  
Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Transit Coordinator/Planning Technician – arrived at 11:43 a.m., left at 12:15 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services  
Christopher Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator  
Grace Zayac, FireSmart Summer Student  
Hannah Zayac, Planning Summer Student

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA &  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-6-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of May 18, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2023

Moved by Director Elphee  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-6-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-6-3

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Natural Resources Committee  
Meeting Minutes-May 4, 2023

Moved by Director Elphee  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-6-4

"That the Board receive the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes for May 4 , 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**SUMMER STUDENT STAFF  
INTRODUCTION**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning introduced Hannah Zayac, Planning Summer Student. Christopher Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator introduced Grace Zayac and Jordan Illes, FireSmart Summer Students,. He also noted that Emma Moore, who was not able to be in attendance has returned to the RDBN as the Protective Services Summer Student.

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

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

Rezoning Application  
RZ RDBN B-01-22, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Reading Report, Bylaw  
2005, 2023 – Electoral  
Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-6-5

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023 be given first and second reading this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 and subsequently taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area B."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Rezoning Application RZ  
RDBN 04-21, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading for  
Rezoning Bylaws 1996, 2023,  
1997, 2023, 1998, 2023, and  
1999, 2023

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-6-6

1. "That the Regional District Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023 be given third reading this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Other Items**

Advisory Planning  
Commission Minutes  
Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-6-7

"That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

#### **ALR Application**

ALR Non-Farm Use and  
Subdivision Application  
No. 1257 – Electoral Area  
A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-6-8

1. "That the Board receive the Public Submissions on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That Agricultural Land Reserve Application 1257 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for denial.

3. And, that should the ALC approve the application BC Hydro be required to make a financial contribution to the Smithers Farmers Institute equal to the market value of the agricultural land removed from agricultural use for the capacitor station."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **Land Referral**

Crown Land Referral  
BC Hydro Capacitor Station  
Referral- Electoral Area A  
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-6-9

"That the Comment Sheet be provided to BC Hydro as the Regional District's comments to the referral regarding BC Hydro's Capacitor Station on Walcott Road."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## Other Items

Community Investment and the Environmental Assessment Process: A Discussion Paper

Moved by Director Brienen  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-6-10

"That the Board receive the Community Investment and the Environmental Assessment Process: A Discussion Paper."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## REGIONAL TRANSIT

2023/2024 Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-6-11

"That the Board receive the 2023/2024 Annual Operating Agreement; and that the Board approve entering into the Agreement with BC Transit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Transit Service Bylaw Amendment

Moved by Director Wiebe  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-6-12

"That the Board direct staff to initiate the process to amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" to increase the requisition limit to \$200,000 and include interested Electoral Areas as identified at the June 8, 2023 Rural/Agricultural Committee Meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Potential future cost concerns due e.g. Granisle's new bus is seeking a cost increase to the final price from the date it was ordered 14 months ago
  - o Step approach - \$5 for each community you travel through
- No access to service in Fort St. James
  - o Residents travelling to Vanderhoof to access the service
- Municipal and electoral area participation in the Regional Transit Service
- Low ridership fees marginally offset the cost of the service

## **REGIONAL TRANSIT (CONT'D)**

- Potential option to lobby for the Province to remove carbon tax on fuel costs for transit services to reduce the cost
- Opportunity to advocate for the Province to provide cost certainty at UBCM
- Considering the greater benefit that allows connections and supports for those needing transportation to access groceries, medical and social service programs and other resources
  - o Decrease in hitch hikers along the highway 16 corridor since implementation of transit service
- History of the implementation of the Regional Transit System
- Alternate agencies that provide transit passes for those that may not have the funds to purchase passes
- Director Atrill has recently been appointed to the BC Transit Board
  - o The Board received a report regarding the supply chain issues impacting the purchase of new buses
- COVID Funding used in 2022/2023 to offset cost of the service
- Grant-in-aid contributions
- First Nations financial contributions.

**Break for lunch at 12:15 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

RDBN 2022 - Strategic Plan

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-6-13

"That the Board adopt the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan as presented."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

UBCM Convention 2023 Moved by Director Greenaway  
-Sept 18-22, 2023, Vancouver, B.C. – Attendance Authorization Seconded by Director Stoltenberg  
-Resolution Deadline, Minister/  
Ministry Staff Meetings

2023-6-14

“That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the UBCM Convention from September 18-22, 2023 in Vancouver, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- NCLGA Resolutions will be brought forward to UBCM
- At the NCLGA Conference a resolution was passed for Northern Health Environmental workers to be educated in the north
  - o Economic development – any delay critical - significant cost if holding up project
  - o Shortage of structural/mechanical engineers is impacting projects
  - o Important to have training options through CNC/UNBC
- Potential UBCM Resolutions regarding:
  - o Community Investment and the Environmental Assessment Process: A Discussion Paper
  - o Carbon tax exemption for public transportation
- Scheduling a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture to discuss:
  - o Veterinarian shortage
  - o Agricultural Land Reserve/Agricultural Land Commission
  - o Impacts/concerns electronic logbooks for hauling cattle
    - MP Bachrach has written a letter to the Transport Minister of Canada
- Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) briefing
- Housing and support for housing
- Strategy for meeting with Ministers at UBCM
  - o RDBN Strategic Plan
- Invite the MLA's from the region to attend RDBN meetings
- Joint meetings with member municipalities and other Regional Districts.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Grant in Aid for Areas B  
(Burns Lake Rural) and  
E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)  
-S. Luke's on the Lake

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-6-15

"That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies (\$2,500 each) to the St. Luke's on the Lake Society for the construction of a lawn shed."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid for Area D  
(Fraser Lake Rural)  
-Nechako Environment  
Stewardship Society

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-6-16

"That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Nechako Watershed Stewardship Society for the Living Lakes Monitoring Project on Fraser Lake."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lakes District Arts and Culture  
Fund Request - Eagle Creek  
Recreation Commission  
Centennial Event

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-6-17

"That the Eagle Creek Recreation Commission be given \$5,000 in Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund monies for the Western Days Centennial Celebration Event."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Canada Community-Building Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Fund BC – Telkwa Museum Seconded by Director Atrill  
Society Application to  
Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa  
Rural)

2023-6-18

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$30,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to Cultural Infrastructure Project at the Telkwa Museum, and further,

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$30,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Elphee removed himself from the meeting at 1:19 p.m. due to a conflict of interest with a family relation being a member of the Community Arts Council.

Canada Community-Building Moved by Director Greenaway  
Fund BC – Community Arts Seconded by Director McGuire  
Council of Fort St. James  
Application to Electoral Area C  
(Fort St. James Rural)

2023-6-19

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$8,000 of Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to Cultural Infrastructure Project at the Pope Mountain Arts Building, and further,

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$8,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Elphee returned to the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Director Lambert removed himself from the meeting at 1:20 p.m. due to a conflict of interest as a member of the Francois-Tchesinkut Recreation Commission.

Canada Community-Building Fund BC – Francois-Tchesinkut Recreation Commission Application to Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-6-20

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$57,350 of Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Recreation Infrastructure project at the Francois Lake Hall, and further,

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$57,350 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Lambert returned to the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Director Lambert removed himself from the meeting at 1:21 p.m. due to a conflict of interest as a Board Member of the Francois Ootsa Sportsman's Association.

Francois Ootsa Sportsman's Association – NDIT Resolution of Support Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-6-21

"That the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Francois Ootsa Sportsman's Association for the Range Cabin Renovation project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Lamber returned at 1:22 p.m.

Cultural Awareness Learning Session Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-6-22

"That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison's Cultural Awareness Learning Session memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

RDBN Reference Guide to  
First Nations in the Region

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-6-23

"That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison's RDBN Reference Guide to First Nations in the Region memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

North Central Local  
Government Association  
Conference – May 9-12, 2023  
Dawson Creek, B.C.

Directors Atrill, Brienen, Greenaway, McGuire, Moon, Moutray, Stoltenberg, Storey and Wiebe attended the NCLGA Conference. Chair Parker attended the event virtually. The following was noted:

- Good conference, panels and Keynote Speakers
- Informative and educational
- Director Atrill participated in a Brownfield/Industrial tour of a former pulp mill and learned of remediation possibilities
- Director Greenaway, Moutray and McGuire attended the Health Communities Forum which spoke of recruitment, retention, daycare, housing, and other key topics
- Chair Parker and Director Stoltenberg attended the Home-Grown Climate Session. The following was discussed:
  - Collaboration in the north on climate change and green energy
  - The Province current pause on windmill initiatives
  - Communities utilizing solar energy for power generation
- Chair Parker also commented that the NCLGA Strategic Planning Session was well presented
- Due to the wildfires in northeastern BC and Alberta it was smoky in the area.

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

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

- Attended UBCM Advocacy Days with the following key topics:
  - Community Safety
  - Housing – Affordability Crisis and Community
  - Economic Development – Supporting Communities in Transition
- Will be attending FCM in Toronto May 25-28<sup>th</sup>
- Village of Fraser Lake received its new Fire Truck
- Current wildfire situation
- Village of Fraser Lake is working on funding for air scrubbers.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) -Update

Director Moon attended the Fraser Basin Council meeting and spoke of the commitment of presenting a northern community perspective.

District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee provided the following update:

- Fort St. James has been experiencing a number of break-ins over the last few weeks
- The District has begun preliminary works on a splash park
- The District of Fort St. James is currently without a CAO.

Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill provided the following Town of Smithers update:

- Rosenthal Road Stabilization works
  - Due to high water levels the riverbank is eroding and creating the increased and exacerbated destabilization of the road
  - Rip rap is being used to stabilize the area
- Town of Smithers Fire Chief is retiring after over 30 years of service and is in the recruitment process for a new Fire Chief.

District of Houston – Update

Director Brienon noted Houston continues to move through its transition from the Canfor Sawmill closure. Due to the sawmill closure John Brink, Brink Group of Companies will be closing the Pleasant Valley Remanufacturing Plant in Houston.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Director Greenaway commented she toured the construction of the new Senior Housing Complex in Fort St. James. It is a 36-unit facility and 26 of the units have been spoken for. The facility is planning to open December 2023.

Village of Burns Lake – Update

Director Wiebe mentioned that there was a break in at a local business in Burns Lake overnight and they experienced significant loss.

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

District of Vanderhoof  
-Update

Director Moutray noted that the Nechako River at Vanderhoof is experiencing low water levels.

Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) – Update

Director Stoltenberg commented that Ebenezer Flats in Smithers is experiencing highwater levels.

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire noted the following:

- Attended a meeting with Northern Health at NCLGA
  - RCMP call to service for Mental Health concerns in the community from July 2022-March 2023 has increased 25%
  - In the past Granisle had a Northern Health Mental Health professional visit the community
  - Granisle requested that Northern Health reinstate that service to support mental health in the community
- Village of Granisle Town Hall Meeting regarding a 5.26% tax increase approved by Council
- Columbarium has been ordered and will be installed at the Village of Granisle Cemetery this summer
- Refurbishing the Granisle sign at Highway 16 and 118.

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

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Attended a meeting with the University of Northern B.C. and Lara Beckett, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George in Vanderhoof regarding programing and funding of a veterinarian program.
- Wildfires and Flooding Events throughout the region
  - Board experience of the Emergency Management Process
  - Staff provided the Emergency Response Quick Reference Guide for Elected Officials
  - Update process for Board.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-6-24

“That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-6-25

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(a), (c) and (k) of the Community Charter for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Appointment
- Labour relations
- Request for Quote
- Regional Transit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-6-26

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:52 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