

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 9

Thursday, August 10, 2023

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen – arrived at 10:08 a.m.
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell – arrived at 10:03 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarraah Storey – via Zoom – left at 12:58 p.m.
Henry Wiebe

Director Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa
Absent

Alternate Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa
Director

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional of Economic Development
– via Zoom – left at 11:28 a.m.
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at
11:30 a.m., left at 11:33 a.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at
11:30 a.m., left at 11:33 a.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services –
left at 12:04 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 1:11 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other Samuel Sugita, Land Use and Government Relations, Rogers

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News – left at 12:04 p.m.

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

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-9-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of August 10, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2023

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-9-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

ROGERS - Samuel Sugita, Land Use and Government Relations Re: New Infrastructure Projects

Chair Parker welcomed Samuel Sugita, Land Use and Government Relations, Rogers.

Mr. Sugita provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Accelerating Connectivity

- Rogers together with Shaw
- Investing in Western Canada
- Connected for Success
- Improving Cellular Connectivity
- The Role of Local Government
- Intelligent infrastructure platforms
 - o Smart city
 - o Connectivity
 - o Smart grid.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Investigating land options in Granisle to determine new tower locations
 - o Mr. Sugita will consult with the Village of Granisle
- Tower upgrades
 - o Current license – 600 MHz and 3.5 GHz
 - o Upgrades to 5G over the next few years
- Having detailed discussion with individual directors and the Connectivity Committee
- Rogers will be in attendance at the UBCM Convention in September.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Saguita for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 3rd Reading

Rezoning Application
RZ B-01-22 - 3rd Reading
Report, Bylaw 2005

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-9-3

1. "That the Regional District Board receive the Public Hearing Reports for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023 be denied."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT

Development Variance
Permit B-01-23 – Electoral
Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-9-4

"That the Board approve Development Variance Permit B-01-23 for the property located at 395 Beach Road to Vary Section 14.0.4.1c) of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 to reduce the setback for a structure from a parcel line which abuts a Highway from 7.5 metres to 4.5 metres for the west parcel line abutting Beach Road for a Single Family Dwelling development in general compliance with Schedule A of the permit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALR Applications

ALR Application 1260
Subdivision – Electoral
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-9-5

"That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1260 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Applications (Cont'd)

ALR Application 1261 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Exclusion Request – Electoral Seconded by Director Atrill
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2023-9-6 “That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1260 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- ALR Exclusion Requests are rare
- Cost of Application
- Past history of property – established prior to the creation of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)
- Future process and compliance
- Current housing challenges
 - ALC considers ALR land implications only
 - Secondary dwellings on ALR Lands
- OCP and Rezoning Process
 - Community water/sewer system compliance to current standards
 - Legalization of dwellings.

Referrals

Notice of Work Referral Moved by Director Stoltenberg
No. 159555282-002 Electoral Seconded by Director Elphee
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2023-9-7 “That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Notice of Work Referral No. 159555282-002.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notice of Work Referral Moved by Director Moon
No. 159635952-005 Electoral Seconded by Director Moutray
Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2023-9-8 “That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Notice of Work Referral No. 159635952-005.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Referrals (Cont'd)

Crown Land Referral Moved by Director Newell
No. 159754934-004 Electoral Seconded by Director McGuire
Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2023-9-9 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral No. 159754934-004."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Bylaw for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Reading

Parks and Trails Bylaw Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-9-10 "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Parks Use Regulations Bylaw No. 1989, 2023 be given first, second, and third reading this 10th day of August, 2023."

Opposed: Director Stoltenberg CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Cycle 16 Trail Phase Three Discussion took place regarding:

- Canada Community Building Fund (formally known as Federal Gas Tax Fund) review and allocation for 2024/2025
- Leveraging Canada Community Building funding for the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (RDIP)
- Success of Phase 1 of the Cycle 16 Trail
- RDBN Parks and Trails Service and the function of the service
 - Participation of Electoral Area A and Town of Smithers
- Town of Smithers commitment to connect Cycle 16 Trail to Town of Smithers trail network
- Moving forward with Phase 3 rather than Phase 2
- Staff capacity.

PARKS AND TRAILS (CONT'D)

Cycle 16 Trail Phase Three Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Alternate Director Morgan

2023-9-11

1. "That the Board support moving forward with Phase 3 of the Cycle 16 Trail prior to Phase 2, in order to make application to the REDIP grant program.
2. That the Board direct staff to apply to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) for a grant of up to \$1,000,000 for the construction of Phase 3 of the Cycle 16 trail; and that the Board agree in principle to fund up to \$500,000 of the project from Electoral Area A Gas Tax Reserve Funds."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Update: Vanderhoof Transfer Station – Electronics Pilot Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-9-12

"That the Board direct staff to move forward with the "one-stop-shop" approach at RDBN Transfer Stations and operate all possible existing Extended Producer Responsibility recycling programs available in BC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2008, 2023 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-9-13

"That Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2008 be adopted this 10th day of August, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Community Resiliency Investment Fund

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-9-14

“That the Board send a letter to the Minister of Forests requesting the Province of BC reconsider the maximum funding a Regional District can receive to incorporate the mandatory Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- FireSmart funding needed for residents
- Developing one plan for the 7 RDBN electoral areas
- Advocating at the UBCM Convention in September
- Municipalities collaborating with rural areas to support community wildfire resiliency
- District of Houston conducted Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning and built a fire guard that assisted in wildfire mitigation for the Peacock Creek Wildfire event
- Funding alternatives to continue FireSmart Program
- FireSmart Resiliency Committee
 - Needs to include forest license holders, First Nations, and stakeholders.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Project Award for RDBN

Moved by Director Atrill

Community Wildfire Resiliency

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-9-15

“That the Board award the contract to develop a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) for all Electoral Areas in the Regional District to Frontera Forest Solutions, subject to funding approval from UBCM – CRI Program. The Cost of the CWRP is \$194,756 excluding GST and will be covered through the Community Resiliency Investment Fund (CRI).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will bring forward a report identifying costs of the programs and options moving forward.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Administration Correspondence

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Brienen

2023-9-16

"That the Board ratify the following Administration
Correspondence:

- Village of Burns Lake – CMHC's Housing Accelerator Fund Application
- Honourable Lawrence MacCauley, Minister of Agriculture Canada – Farmers Need Help Responding to the Drought Crisis in Northern B.C.
- Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture Canada – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Drought
- Bulkley Valley Cattlemen's Association – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Drought."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lakes District News - Black Press Media – Request for Support – Stop all Advertising with Meta Platforms Facebook and Instagram

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-9-17

"That the Board receive the Lakes District News – Black Press Media – Request for Support – Stop all Advertising with Meta Platforms Facebook and Instagram."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Land Referral

Crown Land Application
Referral No. 158768218-003
-Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof
Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Moon

2023-9-18

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application Referral No. 158768218-003."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Energy Regulator

CGL Compressor Stations
Notification No. CGP-012694
-Electoral Area E (Francois/
Ootsa Lake Rural) and G
(Houston/Granisle Rural)

Moved Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-9-19

"That the comment sheet be provided to Coastal GasLink as the Regional District's comments for Compressor Stations Notification No. CGP-012694."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Concerns regarding number and size of compressor stations
- Additional information needed related to noise, dust, employment and the possibility of connectivity in the Buck Flats area
 - In past discussions CGL indicated they would review connectivity opportunities when moving to phase 2 and constructing compressor stations
 - Noise consideration for residents living 14 kms from compressor station and those recreating in the Parrott Lake area
- 30-day response timeline
 - Requesting an extension
 - Providing comment after the 30-day timeline
- Invite CGL to present to the Board

BC Energy Regulator (Cont'd)

- Regional District requirement for a Zoning Bylaw in order to address noise concerns
 - If there is no Zoning Bylaw the Province, ministries and agencies determine usage and may request comments from the Regional District at their discretion
- Write a letter to the BC Energy Regulator indicating more information is required for the Board to provide meaningful comment regarding the referral and request additional information regarding:
 - Noise, access, pollution, employment, fibre optics and an outline of the project
 - Copy the letter to Coastal GasLink
- Mitigating impacts from the proposed compressor station noise emissions
- Director Newell connecting directly with Coastal GasLink to discuss fibre optics in Electoral Area G.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

UBCM – 2023 Next
Generation 911 Funding
– Approval Agreement &
Terms and Conditions of Funding

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-9-20

“That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities regarding 2023 Next Generation 911 Funding – Approval Agreement & Terms and Conditions of Funding.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill mentioned that the Bulkley Valley Exhibition – BVX will be taking place August 24-27, 2023.

Electoral Area E (Francois/
Ootsa Lake Rural)-Update

Director Lambert spoke of:

- Firefighting actions in the Andrew Bay area
 - 9-16 crew members assisting daily
 - Community support
 - Very limited resources from BC Wildfire Service
 - BC Wildfire Service – Nadina Zone requested support from local contractors.
- Burns Lake Centennial Celebration – August 17-20th
 - Participating in the Dunk Tank on August 19th.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee provided the following update:

- District of Fort St. James and Nak'azdli Whut'en issued a boil water advisory August 4th due to water main construction
- Fort St. James Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fire at the back of Save-on-Foods. The fire was contained to the area of origin.
- Increased bear sightings.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update

Director Moon provided the following update:

- Cattle Auction seeing increased numbers due to drought conditions
 - o Cattle Auction scheduled for August 11th
 - o Farmers having to take into consideration that feed 2-3x higher and decide operations moving forward
 - o Nechako Valley Fall Fair cancelled due to fire concerns and site being utilized by BCWS as a staging grounds
 - Concerns regarding groups losing income due to the cancellation of the event
 - Investigating other potential resources for community groups.
 - o Air Scrubbers
 - RDBN Staff were successful in receiving a grant through the United Way to purchase Air Scrubbers.

District of Telkwa – Update

Alternate Director Morgan extended the invitation to attend the Telkwa BBQ September 1-4, 2023. She also noted work is being done to have a second daycare in the community.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)-Update

Director Riis-Christianson commented he attended the Parrot Lookout Wildfire Recovery Information Session on July 24th at Francois Lake Hall.

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire provided the following update:

- Granisle Marina upgrades
 - o Drone footage of the project has been completed
 - o Hydro and security cameras still need to be installed
- Salmon fishing has opened on Babine Lake
- Granisle Day Celebration August 12th
 - o Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley and John Rustad, MLA Nechako Lakes will be in attendance
 - o The theme for the event is Giddy Up and Go

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- Increased bears coming into the community
- Successful in receiving a grant for air conditioners and purifiers in the event of a heat event
- Granisle Curling rink to be utilized for a cooling centre
- Four long time residents of the community have recently passed away.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/ Telkwa Rural) – Update

Director Stoltenberg noted there was a fire at the Canadian Tire Store Garden Centre in Smithers.

Electoral Area G (Houston/ Granisle Rural)-Update

Director Newell spoke of the following:

- Ongoing discussions with CityWest regarding rural Internet
- Area Restrictions remain for the Peacock Creek Wildfire in Electoral Area G
- Attended a Mine Tour of decommissioned facilities
 - o Investment into treatment systems for leachate
 - o Treatment in perpetuity.

Village of Burns Lake – Update

Director Wiebe extended an invitation to the Burns Lake Centennial Celebration taking place August 17-20. Chair Parker will be providing an RDBN welcome address.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)-Update

Director Greenaway spoke of the following:

- Sharps containers being placed in the community
- Attended a Regional Housing Strategic Meeting hosted by Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)
 - o Discussed urban reserves
 - o Investigating options in Fort St. James for aboriginal housing
 - o Intend to visit Vanderhoof and Fraser Lake as well.
- John Illes, Chief Financial Officer and Director Greenaway met with Northern Health regarding the Stuart Lake Hospital Project
- Director Greenaway worked in the Clean Air Facility with air scrubbers in Fort St. James for three days during the wildfire event for three days and there was no attendance by the public.

District of Houston – Update

Director Brien provided the following update:

- Peacock Creek Wildfire
 - o 100 military personnel assisting
 - o Challenging terrain
- Past Wildfire event in 1984 that destroyed homes
- Canfor Sawmill decision delayed.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Continue to work on Wildfire Event
 - o Contacts with Ministers and Staff
 - o Need to develop a process to ensure incoming BCWS Incident Management Teams understand the role local government plays in wildfire events in the region
 - Met with the Incident Commander from the United States
 - o Flyover of the Nechako Southeast Area Wildfires
 - Benefits of FireSmarting properties and communities
 - o Toured the Canadian Armed Forces Staging location with Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley
 - o Communications to the Board during the height of the wildfire event
- Continue to work on the current drought issues in the region.

EOC Staff Appreciation

The Board expressed their appreciation to Chair Parker and RDBN Staff for their work and dedication during the wildfire event.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-9-21

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-9-22

“That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(c) and (2)(b) of the Community Charter for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour Relations
- Contract negotiations.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-9-23

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:51 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services