

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 12

Thursday, November 23, 2023

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Martin Elphee
Leroy Dekens
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell – via Zoom – left at 10:56 a.m., returned at 12:04 p.m., left at 12:13 p.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom – arrived at 1:23 p.m.
Stoney Stoltenberg
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 10:54 a.m., left at 11:45 a.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 10:54 a.m., left at 11:45 a.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – arrived at 10:05 a.m., left at 10:10 a.m., returned at 12:02 p.m., left at 1:11 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom – left at 1:12 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Dan Buffet, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation – via Zoom – left at 10:33 a.m.
Danielle De Kay, Advisor, Communities & Social Performance, Rio Tinto – via Zoom – left at 10:49 a.m.
Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC – via Zoom – left at 10:33 a.m.
Aleece Laird, Amplify Consulting Inc. – via Zoom – left at 10:33 a.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News

CALL TO ORDER Curtis Helgesen, CAO called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2023/2024.

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-12-1

"That Director Parker be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for 2023/2024."

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Chairperson a second time.

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Chairperson a third time.

There being no further nominations CAO Helgesen declared Director Parker Chairperson for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2023/2024 by acclamation.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Vice – Chairperson

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2023/2024.

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-12-2

"That Director Brienens be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for 2023/2024."

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson a second time.

CAO Helgesen called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson a third time.

There being no further nominations CAO Helgesen declared Director Brienens Vice-Chairperson for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the year 2023/2024 by acclamation.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairperson Parker assumed the Chair.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-12-3

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of November 23, 2023 be approved as amended to receive the Metal Salvage Pilot 2024 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-12-4

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting
Minutes – November 9, 2023

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-12-5

"That the Board receive the following Committee Meeting Minutes:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
 - November 9, 2023
- Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes
 - November 9, 2023
- Rural/Agriculture Meeting Minutes
 - November 9, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

FOREST ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY OF BC (FESBC) and HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION (HCTF) – Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, FESBC and Dan Buffet, Chief Executive Officer, HCTF Re: Partnership and Projects Update

Chair Parker welcomed Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Dan Buffet, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

Messrs. Kozuki and Buffet provided a PowerPoint presentation.

DELEGATIONS

FOREST ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY OF BC (FESBC) and HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION (HCTF) (CONT'D)

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and Forest Enhancement Society of BC

- Who we Are
- FESBC & HCTF Partnership
- HCTF Background
- HCTF Projects & Education
- FESBC Funding & Priorities
- FESBC Projects.

The following was discussed:

- Progress reducing habitat loss
 - o More organizations working together
 - o Funding working with First Nations
 - o Holistic landscape level approach
 - o Optimistic
- Slash piles/burning
 - o Smoke concerns
 - o FESBC funds moving fibre to manufacture and not burn piles, avoiding greenhouse gas emissions
 - o Pellet Plant in Smithers when being proposed indicated it would be reducing the amount of slash burning by using the fibre – not the current status
 - Utilizing green wood rather than using fibre from slash piles
- Habitat loss due to diminishing mature stands throughout the province
- Threadbare patchwork quilt
- Rebuilding the landscape and habitat
- How is information shared?
 - o Utilizing reports, studies and research in conversations with Ministry staff and building knowledge base to develop projects with partners
- FESBC and HCTF working to make forests healthy for forest economic dependent communities.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Kozuki and Buffet for attending the meeting.

RIO TINTO – Danielle De Kay, Advisor, Communities & Social Performance Re: Update

Chair Parker welcomed Danielle De Kay, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Rio Tinto.

Ms. De Kay provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

- Full operating capacity since 2018
- Dam Safety
 - o Nechako Reservoir Dams
- 2023 Field Activities for Dam Safety Review
- 2024 Activities for Dam Safety

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

RIO TINTO – Danielle De Kay, Advisor, Communities & Social Performance Re: Update (Cont'd)

- Provincial Advisories – Drought
- Watershed Roadshow: Recap
- Community Investment: 2023 Contributions
- Social Investment for Impact: Looking Ahead into 2024.

The following was discussed:

- Dam structure failure detection systems
 - o Water sensor system
 - o Information sent to local dam monitoring location and Rio Tinto in Kitimat
 - o Ms. De Kay will follow-up with information
- Including contact information in Rio Tinto Emergency Response Plan
- Construction of dams today vs. when they were built in the early 50's
- Drought impacts on Rio Tinto water flows on the Nechako reservoir
- Water Engagement Initiative (WEI)
- BC Hydro paralleling transmission lines to the west coast
 - o Will there be opportunities to use the power during drought conditions?
 - Ms. De Kay will follow-up with additional information
- Currently experiencing adverse drought conditions of level 4 and 5 compared to a level 3 drought identified by Rio Tinto.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. De Kay for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

OCP Amendment & Rezoning Application RZ E-01-22, 1st & 2nd Reading Report Bylaw Nos. 2021 & 2022 -Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-12-6

1. "That the Board consider and approve the consultation identified in the consultation checklist.
2. That Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2021, 2023 be given first and second reading this 23rd day of November, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.
3. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2022, 2023 be given first and second reading this 23rd day of November, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading (Cont'd)

4. That the Public Hearing for Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2021, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2022, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area E."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for 3rd Reading and Adoption

OCP Amendment RDBN-02-22 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
3rd Reading and Adoption Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson
Report, Bylaw Nos. 2000, 2001,
2002 & 2003 – Electoral Areas
A, B, E, D, G

2023-12-7

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Smithers and Telkwa Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2000,2023, Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2001,2023, Endako, Fraser Lake and Fort Fraser Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2002, 2023 and Houston, Topley, Granisle Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2003, 2023.

2. That Smithers and Telkwa Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2000,2023, Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2001,2023, Endako, Fraser Lake and Fort Fraser Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2002, 2023 and Houston, Topley, Granisle Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2003, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 23rd day of November, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Lambert requested clarification regarding Directors input into the parkland dedication process. Staff confirmed that Directors, at a minimum, will be able to review and comment on parkland dedication proposals at the time of the Advisory Planning Commission referral and review process, and at the time the Board considers and makes a decision on parkland dedication requirements.

Bylaw for 3rd Reading and Adoption (Cont'd)

Rezoning Application
RZ B-01-23, 3rd Reading and
Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw
No. 2019 – Electoral Area B
(Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-12-8

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2019, 2023.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2019, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 23rd day of November, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Rezoning Application
RZ A-02-23 – Adoption for
Rezoning Bylaw No. 2020
– Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-12-9

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2020, 2023 be adopted this 23rd day of November, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Bill 35, 2023: *Short Term*
Rentals Accommodations Act

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-12-10

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Bill 35, 2023: *Short Term Rentals Accommodations Act* memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Concerns about future impacts of regulations
- Housing impacts to economic development
- Working with the Province to ensure regulations meet the needs of the area
- Tools to address the lack of short term rentals
- Housing needs for foreign workers
- Challenges of owning a rental property.

Other (Cont'd)

Bill 44, 2023: Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-12-11 "That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Bill 44, 2023: *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act* memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was brought forward:

- Bill 44 will prohibit local governments from holding public hearings for rezonings for housing projects that are consistent with an OCP (Official Community Plan)
- Formal public engagement during the rezoning process is restricted
- Informal engagement processes
- Updating Zoning Bylaws and OCPs
- Staffing capacity and workload.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Mine Referrals

Mine Referral No. 161384335 – Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-12-12 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Mines Referral No. 161384335."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notice of Work Referral No. 162215666-001 – Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-12-13 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Notice of Work Referral No. 162215666-001."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Pipeline Referrals (Cont'd)

Coastal GasLink Compressor
Stations Notification No.
CGP-012694 (Parrot Lakes)

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-12-14

"That the comment sheet be submitted to Coastal GasLink as the Regional District's comments for the Parrot Lakes Compressor Station, Notification No. CGP-012694."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the tour of the Compressor Stations. The following was noted:

- State of the art facility
- Low noise levels of the compressors
- Compound is 50-60 acres with large buildings to house the compressors
- Building of compressors increases capacity of pipeline without having to build additional pipelines
- Knowledgeable and competent staff
- First Nations consultation and engagement.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Metal Salvage Pilot 2024

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-12-15

"That the Board receive the Chief Administrative Officer's, Director of Environmental Services' and Waste Diversion Supervisor's Metal Salvage Pilot 2024 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Budget considerations to implement 2024 Metal Salvage Pilot
- Conducting the Pilot Project at an RDBN facility with scales to weigh in/out
- Process to bring Motion forward to the Board
- Bringing forward information at the December Board meeting at the request of the Chair
- Options for the one-year pilot to be included without budget implications.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Committee Meeting
Recommendations
November 9, 2023

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-12-16

"That the Board approve recommendations 1 and 2 as written:

Committee of the Whole – November 9, 2023

Recommendation 1:

Re: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Indigenous Cultural Safety Application

"That the Board approve the RDBN's application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Indigenous Cultural Safety Program for a Cultural Competence in Emergency Response project and agree to provide overall grant management for the project."

Rural/Agriculture Committee – November 9, 2023

Recommendation 2:

Re: Invitation to Minister Cullen to Attend a Future Meeting

"That the Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss water licensing and agricultural water usage."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN 2024 Meeting Schedule

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-12-17

"That the Board approve the 2024 RDBN meeting schedule."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

General Passenger Vehicle
Updated Summary

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-12-18

"That the Board approve the purchase of one new passenger vehicle with the funds for payment to come from the administration reserves and that this purchase be included in the 2024 budget."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Growing Community Fund

The following was discussed:

- Allocation of some of the funds from Waste Management to Emergency Services
- Province's intent for funding:
 - Housing
 - Regional focus
 - Rural assets
 - Funds to be allocated by December 31, 2023
- Utilizing funds for Fire Sprinkler Trailers for the four RDBN rural volunteer fire departments
- 2023 Wildfire Task Force (Provincial)
 - Working on the topic of liability
 - Province indicated want for local societies to have the ability to action wildfires
 - Corrina Leween, Chief, Cheslatta Carrier Nation is a member of the Task Force
- Utilizing waste management funding for commercial composters
- Environmental Services budget is a region wide service
- Landfills and Transfer Stations revenue vs. operational costs
 - Residential property taxes
 - Upcoming implementation of user pay system
 - Landfill closure costs
- Emergency Management and Parks and Trails Services will determine projects through capital planning
 - Rural Directors can determine funding.
- Discussion continued further in Minutes.

Pipeline Referrals

Coastal GasLink Compressor Stations Notification No. CGP-012694 (Titanium Creek)

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-12-19

"That the comment sheet be submitted to Coastal GasLink as the Regional District's comments for the Titanium Creek Compressor Station, Notification No. CGP-012694."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 12:13 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Growing Community Fund Discussion (Cont'd)

- Fund to be allocated by December 31, 2023 and be utilized by 2025
- Allocate funds to reserves and invested until utilized
- Determine a solution concerning liability for wildfire firefighting trailers and allocation of funding
- Chair Parker gave his consent to move funding from Fort Fraser Water & Sewer to Emergency Management Equipment & Facilities for a total of \$302,162
- Future Board decisions to reallocate the funds to other parameters within the GCF grant program may be brought forward to the Province for consideration
- Regional Housing Initiative.

Growing Community Fund

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-12-20

"That the Board allocate the remaining \$1,364,000 of the Growing Communities Fund as per Table 1 as amended reallocating funds from Fort Fraser Water & Sewer in the amount of \$17,162 to Emergency Management Equipment & Facilities for a total of \$302,162 as outlined below:

Regional Wide Focus

- Regional Housing Initiative (already allocated)
 - \$400,000
- Solid Waste Mgmt. Infrastructure
 - \$776, 838

Subtotal \$1,176,838

Rural Focus

- Emergency Mgmt. Equipment & Facilities - \$302,162
- Parks and Trails Infrastructure & Amenities - \$285,000

Subtotal \$587,162

GMF Grant Total \$1,764,000."

Opposed: Clint Lambert

CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Bulkley-Nechako Joint
Accessibility Advisory
Committee – Terms of
Reference Change

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-12-21

“That the Board approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Volunteer Firefighter & Search
and Rescue Tax Credit

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-12-22

“That the Board send a letter to MP Gordon Johns to support Bill C-310: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Volunteer Firefighting and Search and Rescue Volunteer Tax Credit).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Housing - New
Legislation to Support Local
Government Housing Initiatives

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-12-23

“That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Housing regarding New Legislation to Support Local Government Housing Initiatives.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy
-Follow-up UBCM Meeting

Moved by Director Wiebe
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-12-24

“That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding Follow-up from UBCM Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Finance
-Follow-up UBCM Meeting

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-12-25

“That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Finance regarding Follow-up from UBCM Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Post-Secondary
Education and Future Skills
-Follow-up UBCM Meeting

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-12-26

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills regarding Follow-up from UBCM Meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Emergency
Management and Climate
Change -Follow-up UBCM Meeting

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-12-27

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regarding Follow-up from UBCM Meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Safety Canada
Response to January 4, 2023
RDBN Letter – Proposed
Amendments to Bill C-21

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-12-28

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Public Safety Canada regarding Response to January 4, 2023 RDBN Letter – Proposed Amendments to Bill C-21."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Town of Smithers-Update

Director Atrill announced the Town of Smithers Christmas in the Valley will be held November 24th and 25th.

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

Director Lambert indicated he has been working with Chinook Emergency Response Society and other groups to preplan for potential wildfires in 2024.

District of Fort St. James
-Update

Director Elphee provided the following update:

- Completed its sewer and water system upgrades
- Started upgrades to the Stones Bay Road water system
- Moonlight Madness and Santa Claus Parade will take place November 24, 2023.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update Director Moon noted the following:

- Approximately 30,000 head of cattle through the Vanderhoof Auction Barn the past weekend
- Concerns remain about enough feed for the animals that have been kept
- Christmas Celebrations in Vanderhoof will take place December 2nd.

Village of Telkwa – Update Director Dekens provided the following update:

- Completing summer waterline project
- A 12-unit Senior Housing is being proposed for Tower Street
- Hired a new Public Works Officer
- New subdivision to potentially move forward in 2024
- Craft Fair – December 12th.

Electoral Area E (Burns Lake Rural) – Update Director Riis-Christianson mentioned the following:

- Participated in the Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network Meetings
 - o Educating communities and local governments regarding connectivity and connectivity technologies
 - o Moving into role of advocacy with UBCM
- Met with Rachel Greenspan, Executive Director, Network BC and Jeanne Holliss, Executive Director, Connected Communities
 - o Discussed the lack of information coming forward regarding grant funded approved projects
 - o Inflation impacts to funding for projects due to approval process being 9 to 12 months
 - o Ms. Greenspan and Ms. Holliss indicated willingness to visit the RDBN.

Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire provided the following update:

- Annual Lions Club Light-up the Park and Volunteer Fire Department Barbeque
- Cram the Cruiser event December 2nd for its Christmas Hamper Program
- November 9th provincial announcement – More Ambulance Services to Rural communities
 - Four new members to be added
 - 4 and 4 schedule
 - in spring of 2024
- Pacific Northern Gas – Propane
 - Advocated with PNG for two years with the BC Utilities Commission and will receive a 45% reduction as of January 1, 2024
- Attended Lakes District Maintenance Stakeholder Meeting.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural) – Update Director Stoltenberg mentioned he had the opportunity to meet the new Village of Telkwa Fire Chief.

District of Vanderhoof-Update Director Moutray announced that the Merry Madness Event will take place December 2nd from 10 am to 10 pm.

Village of Burns Lake – Update Director Wiebe provided the following update:

- The Foundry has started earth works for its building
- Burns Lake Fire Hall Improvement Project construction is moving forward with expected completion May 2024
- Centennial Christmas Parade and Village Light-Up will take place November 14th
- A tubing hill located at the Village of Burns Lake Property on Gowan Road will be opening to the public.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James
Rural) – Update Director Greenaway noted the following:

- As NCLGA 1st Vice President attended meetings with Minister Kang regarding foreign workers and Minister Beare regarding connectivity
- Attended the Vanderhoof Primary Care Facility announcement with Minister Dix on November 13th
- November 18th attended the ceremony for the removal of the old hospital in Vanderhoof
- November 17th attended the NCLGA webinar: Ethical Space: A Framework for Indigenous Relations
- Fort St. James Toy and Food Drive 2023 is taking place
- Preparing an Extreme Weather Facility for the community of Fort St. James.

District of Houston – Update Director Brienien mentioned the following:

- Canfor contractors are moving through the process of adjusting to the mill closure
- Houston Finning is closing its equipment, parts sales and service building after 52 years in the community
 - o Employees are given the option to stay with Finning and become mobile technicians or other positions
- Christmas Light-up and Parade will be December 17th.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Fraser Lake Craft Fair will take place November 25th
- Gillian Muir, Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) from the University of Saskatchewan was in the region for three days
 - o Met with Chair Parker and Lara Beckett, Chair, RDFFG and Veterinarians from Vanderhoof
 - o Ms. Muir provided a presentation to students and members of the 4H Clubs in Vanderhoof
 - o Ms. Muir met with UNBC
 - o WCVM program is at capacity at University of Saskatchewan
 - Only school in Canada that provides accreditation to foreign workers
 - Receive 400-500 applicants and move forward approximately 80 applicants
- Attended the Nechako Watershed Roundtable Meeting
 - o Discussed wildfires and RDBN best practices
 - First Nations collaboration
 - Policy Liaison
- 2023 Wildfire Task Force (Provincial)
 - o Working with Director Lambert
- Attended the Fraser Lake Remembrance Day ceremonies
 - o Number of participants declining
 - o Importance of paying tribute.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-12-29

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Drought Conditions

Director Moutray spoke of inviting a delegation from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to attend a future meeting to discuss location and monitoring of test wells, water licensing, water storage and agricultural water usage. Director Atrill mentioned that communication from the Province would be helpful to share with residents. Chair Parker will forward information to the Board regarding test wells in the region.

Director Storey noted that UBCM is also working on the issue.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-12-30

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

- Boundary Expansion
- First Nations Engagement
- Labour Relations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Brienens

2023-12-31

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:50 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services