

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 1

Thursday, January 25, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Martin Elphee
Leroy Dekens – via Zoom
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarraah Storey –returned from lunch at 12:52 p.m.
Stoney Stoltenberg
Henry Wiebe

Director Absent Judy Greenaway, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Lionel Conant, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development –
via Zoom – arrived at 11:17 a.m., left at 1:23 p.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – left at 10:45
a.m., returned at 12:55 p.m., left at 1:49 p.m.
Jay Finstad, Environmental Services Technician – left at 10:45
a.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services –
arrived at 11:45 a.m., left at 1:59 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:39 a.m.,
returned at 12:55 p.m., left at 1:55 p.m., returned at 2:05 p.m.,
left at 2:25 p.m.
Maria Sandberg, Planning and Parks Coordinator – arrived at
11:00 a.m., left at 11:39 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Jack Cherniawsky, Vanderhoof - via Zoom - left at 11:38 a.m.
Kim Menounos, Manager, Northern Interior Region, Fraser Basin Council and Nechako Watershed Round Table Chair – via Zoom – left at 11:17 a.m.
Jeremy Penninga, Smithers – left at 11:38 a.m.
Terry Roberts, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council – via Zoom - left at 11:17 a.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-1-1 “That the Board Meeting Agenda of January 25, 2024 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2023 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-1-2 “That the Board Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2023 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Meeting Minutes -December 8, 2023 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-1-3 “That the Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2023 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES (CONT'D)

Bulkley-Nechako Joint
Accessibility Meeting Minutes
-November 24, 2023 Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Brienens

2024-1-4 "That the Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Meeting Minutes
of November 24, 2023 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting Minutes
- January 11, 2024 Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-1-5 "That the Board receive the following Committee Meeting
Minutes:
-Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- January 11, 2024
-Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
- January 11, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF INTRODUCTION Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services introduced
Jay Finstad, Environmental Services Technician.

DELEGATION

**FRASER BASIN COUNCIL & NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE (NWR) – Kim
Menounos, Manager, Northern Interior Region, Fraser Basin Council and NWR Co-Chair
and Terry Roberts, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council Re: Update**

Chair Parker welcomed Kim Menounos, Manager, Northern Interior Region, Fraser Basin
Council and NWR Co-Chair and Terry Roberts, Director Interior Programs, Fraser Basin
Council.

Mr. Roberts and Ms. Menounos provided a PowerPoint presentation.
Fraser Basin Council Update

- History: The FBMP
- Charter for Sustainability
- Board Composition
- Strategic Plan 2021-2026
 - o Strategic Priorities
 - o Key Roles
- Taking Action on Climate Change
- Sustainable Transportation
- First Nations Community supports for Climate Change
- Air Quality
- Supporting Healthy Watersheds & Water Resources
- Nechako Watershed Roundtable

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL & NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE (NWR) – Kim Menounos, Manager, Northern Interior Region, Fraser Basin Council and NWR Co-Chair and Terry Roberts, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council Re: Update (Cont'd)

- Floodplain Mapping in BC
- Wildfire Resilience Working Group
- Fraser Landslides Research Project
- Caribou Recovery Implementation Fund
- Collaborative Disaster Risk Reduction.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Large Lakes Monitoring Project
 - o Fraser Lake
 - o Stuart Lake
 - o Takla Lake
 - o Tremblay Lake
 - o Tatuck Lake
- Electric vehicles in the north
 - o Decreased ranges due to weather
 - o Distance between communities
 - o Wait times at charging stations
 - o Used vehicle sales data challenging
 - o Available electricity concerns
 - o Infrastructure costs depending on upgrades needed to charge at home
 - o Electrification of local government fleets – consider right tool for the job
 - Distances
 - Operational
 - Warranty and service access
 - o FBC reviewing data
- Wildfire Resilience Working Group
 - o FBC in conversation with BC Wildfire Service
 - Recognize the need for additional roundtables in the north
 - FBC has funding to implement one Working Group
 - Will be making an announcement in the near future regarding the location of the Working Group
- FBC Annual General Meeting
 - o Hosting meetings in locations around the Province.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Menounos and Mr. Roberts for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Development Variance Permit

Development Variance Permit Moved by Director Lambert
E-01-22, Electoral Area E Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

2024-1-6

1. "That the Board approve the issuance of DVP E-01-23 for the properties located on Colleymount Road, legally described as Lot A, District Lots 5333 & 5332, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 6090 and Lot 1, District Lot 5332, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 3998, Except Plan 5079 to vary Section 14.0.3.1 of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 by reducing the minimum Parcel area that may be created by subdivision from 2 hectares to 1 hectare for Proposed Lots 1, 2 and 3, for a four parcel subdivision in general compliance with Schedule A of the permit.

2. That the Board direct staff to issue the permit only if Bylaw No. 2021 and proposed Bylaw No. 2022 are adopted by the Board."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Reading

Rezoning Application Moved by Director Stoltenberg
RZ A-04-23 1st, 2nd, 3rd Reading Seconded by Director Atrill
Report Rezoning Bylaw
No. 2023-Electoral Area A
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2024-1-7

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2023, 2023 be given first, second and third reading this 25th day of January, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for 3rd Reading and Adoption

OCP Amendment and

Rezoning Application

RZ E-01-22, 3rd Reading Report

Bylaw Nos. 2021-2022

Electoral Area E

(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Ris-Christianson

2024-1-8

1. "That the Board receive the Report of 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 on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2021, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 25th day of January, 2024.

3. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2022, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 25th day of January, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Denial

The Board granted permission for Jeremy Penninga, Applicant for OCP Amendment and Rezoning Application RZ A-03-23 to speak to the application.

Mr. Penninga referenced the letter he distributed to the Board asking that his application be deferred to allow him time to acquire an Engineer to provide a report for each of the 17 dwellings built without building permit to determine the work necessary to bring each building into compliance with the BC Building Code. Mr. Penninga noted that he wanted to consult with the Residential Tenancy Branch regarding his current tenants. He noted that on average the tenants stay 8.5 years and are low-income renters. He spoke of the challenges for low-income renters to find alternative accommodations. He expressed his desire to work with RDBN staff.

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an overview of the process to legalize the 17 buildings that were built contrary to zoning and building regulations. He noted that the property owner is also requesting that the RDBN make an application to exclude the land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Staff are concerned that if this application is made and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) approves the exclusion the necessary upgrading of buildings may not take place. Staff noted they are unable to support the application without increased certainty that the work will be done to bring the buildings into compliance with bylaws. If this work is not done enforcement will be the sole responsibility of the Regional District.

Bylaw for Denial (Cont'd)

OCP Amendment and
Rezoning Application
RZ A-03-23 Electoral A
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-1-9

"That OCP Amendment and Rezoning Application RZ A-03-23 be deferred to the February 22, 2024 Board meeting."

Opposed: Director McGuire CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Temporary Use Permit

Temporary Use Permit
F-02-23 -Electoral Area F
(Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-1-10

1. "That the Board approve the issuance of TUP F-02-23 to allow the operation of an aggregate crusher and an aggregate screener at the property legally described as the Northeast ¼ of Section 6, Township 13, Range 5, Coast District, located on Kluskus Forest Service Road.

2. That the Board direct staff to not issue the TUP until Agricultural Land Commission Non-Farm Use Application 1256 for aggregate extraction on the subject property has been approved by the ALC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Housing Initiatives Capacity
Funding

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Brienens

2024-1-11

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Housing Initiatives Capacity Funding memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other (Cont'd)

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

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-1-12

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
Electoral Area F
(Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-1-13

"That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALR Application

Subdivision ALR Application
1263, Electoral Area F
Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-1-14

"That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1263 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for denial."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mine Referrals

Mines Referral No. 163524849
Electoral Area B (Burns Lake
Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-1-15

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Lease Renewal Referral No. 163524849."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Coastal GasLink Pipeline Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP)

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-1-16

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Coastal GasLink Pipeline - Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks and Trails Master Plan for Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/ Ootsa Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-1-17

"That the Board receive the Parks and Trails Master Plan for Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Minerals North-May 8-10, 2024 - Kitimat, BC

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Moon

2024-1-18

"That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend Minerals North from May 8-10, 2024 in Kitimat, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Major Services Budgets

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brien

2024-1-19

"That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Major Services Budgets memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Growing Community Fund Grant allocation
 - Allocated to Environmental Services
 - Allocating funds to connectivity initiatives
 - Criteria requires funds be used for capital projects and RDBN owned infrastructure

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Environmental Services budget and funding
 - Further discussion needed regarding landfill closure reserves
 - Implementation of user fees
 - Rolling stock asset management
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- 2023 revenue brought forward.

Break for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

Major Service Budgets (Cont'd)

CAO Helgesen provided an overview of major service budgets. He noted the following considerations: CPI, pipeline revenue, Environmental Services maximum requisition and capacity building, property assessment ranges across the region, and increase in capacity with the hiring of a Human Resources Advisor and First Nations Liaison.

The following was discussed:

- Weed Control Budget
 - o Inviting the Northwest Invasive Plant Council to provide a funding allocation update
- Property Class Assessment Analysis
- RDBN – 2024 Budget Projected Tax Rates for Regional Services – Table 1
 - o Proposed budget for region-wide and rural strategic initiatives
 - o Rural Directors consideration of grant in aid tax rate for 2024
 - o Staff will bring forward options regarding strategic initiatives
- Evaluation of the impacts to the Protective Services budget from the implementation of the new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*
- Pipeline revenue opportunities for future initiatives and reserve planning
- Total general expenses – 2023 Budget and Actuals
- Regional Grant in Aid
- Grant from pipeline camp workers in Electoral Areas B and E
- Remuneration and Travel
 - o Staff will bring the topic forward at the Rural/Agriculture Committee
- Hospital District Assessments
- Reserve budgets.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Canada Community Building Moved by Director Newell
Fund Electoral Area G Seconded by Director Brienen
(Houston/Granisle Rural)
-Houston Flyers Club

2024-1-20

1. "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$85,000 of Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to the Houston Flying Club for a Local Airport Infrastructure project at the Houston Airport, and

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$85,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community Building Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Fund Electoral Area A Seconded by Director Atrill
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
-Bulkley Valley Youth Sport
Foundation

2024-1-21

1. "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$180,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to the Bulkley Valley Youth Sport Foundation for a Recreation Infrastructure project at the Telkwa tennis courts, and

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$180,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid for Area F Moved by Director Moon
(Vanderhoof Rural) Seconded by Director Moutray
Vanderhoof Children's Theater

2024-1-22

"That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Vanderhoof Children's Theater for the Lion King production."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

911 Service Agreement

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-1-23

"That the Board approve the renewal of the 911 Service Agreement with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) for an additional five-year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to bringing forward a resolution to the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention regarding 911 Call Answer Levy.

Houston Rural Fire Protection Agreement Renewal

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-1-24

"That the Board approve the renewal of the Houston Rural Fire Protection Agreement for an additional five-year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter Stating RDBN Concerns Regarding *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-1-25

"That the Board submit the letter to the Premier and Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness regarding the RDBN's concerns on the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* as amended."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund -Emergency Support Services Application

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-1-26

"That the Board supports the submission of a regional application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (UBCM) – Emergency Support Services (ESS) funding stream for the 2024 grant on behalf of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), Village of Granisle, and District of Houston.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Further, the Board authorize staff and understands that if the grant is approved, the RDBN will receive and manage all grant funding, and commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Departmental Quarterly Reports – 4th Quarter

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-1-27

"That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Departmental Quarterly Reports – 4th Quarter memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional District Voting Rules

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-1-28

"That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Regional District Voting Rules memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. Replacement K1A-Forest Stewardship Plan (2023-2028) Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Alternate Director Conant

2024-1-29

"That the Board receive the correspondence from Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. regarding Replacement K1A – Forest Stewardship Plan (2023-2028)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minister of Housing RE; New Legislation to Support Local Government Housing Initiatives

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-1-30

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Minister of Housing regarding New Legislation to Support Local Government Housing Initiatives."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Union of B.C. Municipalities Housing Summit 2024: Local Vision, Local Action Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-1-31

“That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services’ Union of B.C. Municipalities Housing Summit 2024: Local Vision, Local Action memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Toboggan Creek Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Society – Letter of Support Request

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienen

2024-1-32

“That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the Toboggan Creek Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Society regarding the importance of the program to enhance the salmonid stocks within the Bulkley River.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

West Fraser Sawmill Closure Fraser Lake The Board expressed its support for the Village of Fraser Lake and Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) regarding the recent announcement from West Fraser Sawmill in regard to closure of its Fraser Lake operation.

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

- The Lakes District Hospital and Healthcare Centre will have a new physician arrive in the fall of 2024 and two additional physicians will arrive in the spring of 2025
- Chiller for the Tom Forsythe Arena has not yet arrived delaying the installation of ice further
- Meeting with consultants January 25th regarding the development of the Village of Burns Lake’s Gowan Road property.

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Director Newell attended the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George, January 16-18, 2024 and found it valuable.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

SAR/RCMP/EOC Exercise Training

Director Moutray, on behalf of Nechako Valley Search and Rescue attended the SAR/RCMP/EOC Exercise Training event January 19th & 20th at the RDBN. He commented that it was a good preplanning exercise for the 2024 year.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Director Stoltenberg mentioned the need to send a letter to Premier Eby and the Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests requesting timber licences return to a local Community Forest when a sawmill in a community closes.

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire provided the following update:

- The pharmacy in Granisle is under new ownership and will be expanding its hours on February 1, 2024
 - Housing has been identified as a challenge and the option to purchase a unit in the Resort has been discussed
- 2024 Budget process underway
 - Offering 10% discount to residents who pay their utility bills prior to the end of April.

Village of Fraser Lake – Update

Director Storey expressed challenges facing the Village of Fraser Lake and surrounding community with the recent announcement of the closure of the West Fraser Sawmill in Fraser Lake. Director Storey noted the following:

- A joint letter has been completed from the Village of Fraser Lake, Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural), Nadleh Whut'en and Stellat'en First Nation
- Meetings with Minister Ralston, Minister Cullen, MP Bachrach and Chair Parker have taken place
- Stakeholder meeting planned for January 29th with support from the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- Continue to review options to build a strong community without large industry
- The benefits of having a Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance Agreement
- 2024 Budget process starting – challenging with the future impacts to the tax base with the mill closure
- Invited to attend the Union of B.C. Municipalities Community Economic Development Committee webinar which provided a Rural Tool Kit for Strengthening Economies through Outdoor Recreation

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Met with forestry representatives regarding thinning and spacing work for wildfire reduction close to communities
- Attended a Northern Medical Programs Trust Meeting
- Attended Northern Development Initiative Trust Meeting
- Childcare needs in the community has been identified as a need to support retention and attraction
- Appeal of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy non-compliance decision for 2021 regarding the Village of Fraser Lake effluent discharge.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Director Riis-Christianson spoke to timber licences needing to remain in the community.

Director Riis-Christianson met with Director Wiebe regarding the implementation of a Healthcare Professional Recruitment Committee.

Village of Telkwa

Director Dekens mentioned that the Village of Telkwa is in 2024 Budget discussions.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Director Moon spoke of the following:

- Mineral exploration in Electoral Area F
- Artemis Gold Inc. Blackwater Project construction moving forward
- Nechako Producers Group, spearheaded by Wayne Salewski meeting to discuss water in the Nechako Valley
- The agriculture industry could potentially offset some of the mill closures.

District of Fort St. James

Director Elphee reported the following:

- Hampton Sawmill in Fort St. James has started a second shift
- 27th Annual Caledonia Classic Dog Sled Races will be held February 2-4, 2024.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area E (Francois/ Ootsa Lake Rural)

Director Lambert provided the following update:

- Attended community meetings regarding the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*
 - Impacts to Search and Rescue
- Investigating the purchase of a Structural Protection Trailer for the Southside
- Chinook Emergency Response Society hosting S100 courses and expanding courses to comply with BC Wildfire Service requirements
- Burns Lake NAPA is providing a discount to Electoral Area E residents for wildfire mitigation equipment.

Town of Smithers

Director Atrill commented that:

- BC Housing is proposing a 40-unit supportive housing unit in the community. She also mentioned that discussions are taking place regarding an emergency shelter
- The Town of Smithers is also reviewing an Economic Development Plan and Recreation and Parks Master Plan
- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George
- Upcoming Events in Smithers
 - Rock Talk 2024 – February 20-23
 - NCLGA AGM and Conference– May 13-16
- Recreation and travel media trips will also be taking place
- Smithers District Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in May 2024
- Hudson Bay Mountain Ski Resort and Nordic Centre remains in operation with the minimal snow levels
- Black Press Publication announced its in creditor protection impacting media publications.

Chair Parker, Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Addressing concerns regarding the West Fraser Sawmill closure in his area
 - Fiber needs to remain in the community
 - Many potential options
 - Working with Nadleh Whut'en and Stelat'en First Nation
- Reaching out to Centerra Gold to determine status of Endako Mine

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Met with the Nechako Producers Group
 - University of Northern B.C. was also in attendance
 - Provided weather stations to implement across the valley
 - Addressing the following topics:
 - Irrigation and water sustainability
 - Understanding Water licences
 - Sediment issues
- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George
 - Met with the Honourable Murray Rankin Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Honourable Nathan Cullen, Ministry of Water, Lands and Resources Stewardship, Nechako First Nations, Cheslatta Carrier Nation and District of Vanderhoof regarding the MOU Nechako Reservoir
- Artemis Gold Inc. Blackwater Project meeting
 - Lobby to ensure local contractors are being hired
- Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)
 - Will revisit the Fabulous Festivals and Interns Funding program in the future
- Working on concerns regarding the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-1-33

"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 Wiebe

2024-1-34

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

- Cycle 16 Trail
- Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)
- Labour Relations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-1-35

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:44 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services