

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 4

Thursday, March 21, 2024

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill Shane Brien Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell – via Zoom Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Henry Wiebe
	Director Absent	Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake
	Alternate Director	Audrey Fennema, Village of Fraser Lake
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – arrived at 11:20 a.m., left at 11:35 a.m. Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – arrived at 11:25 a.m. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:05 a.m., left at 11:15 a.m. Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician/Transit Coordinator – arrived at 10:47 a.m., left at 11:15 a.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Others	Dustin Rumley, Vanderhoof - left at 11:15 a.m. Ethan Fredeen, CAO, Village of Fraser Lake – left at 10:20 a.m., returned at 11:02 a.m. Tanner Moulton Public Affairs Advisor, TC Energy Coastal GasLink – arrived at 10:04 a.m., left at 10:35 a.m. Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit – via Zoom – arrived at 10:34 a.m., left at 11:15 a.m. Sian Weaver, Manager, Socio-economics, TC Energy Coastal GasLink – arrived at 10:04 a.m., left at 10:35 a.m.
	Media	Saddman Zaman, LD News

CALL TO ORDER

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

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of March 21, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes

-March 7, 2024

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Moon

2024-4-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2024 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bulkley-Nechako Joint

Accessibility Advisory

Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-4-3

"That the Board receive the Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural/Agriculture Committee

Meeting Minutes

-March 7, 2024

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-4-4

"That the Board receive the Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

TC ENERGY – COASTAL GASLINK – Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Advisor and Sian Weaver, Manager, Socio-economics Re: Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) – Implementation of Mitigation Measures

Chair Parker welcomed Tanner Moulton, Public Affairs Advisor and Sian Weaver, Manager, Socio-economics, TC Energy Coastal GasLink.

Mr. Moulton and Ms. Weaver provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Coastal GasLink: Project Update and Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) Overview

- Project Update/Overview
- Coastal GasLink Project Milestones
- 2024 RDBN Summer Construction
- Coastal GasLink In-Kind Material Donations
- Community Investment and Build Strong Program
- TC Energy Scholarships – Apply Now!
- SEEMP Implementation Highlights 2024
- SEEMP Engagement Feedback (10th Reporting Cycle)
- Emergency Services
- Housing and Commercial Accommodation
- Road, Air, Rail and Navigability of Waterways
- Waste Management Facilities
- Phase 2 Update
 - o Potential Additional Compressor Stations
 - o Proposed Compressor Station Locations – RDBN
- Creating a legacy of safety and respect.

The following was discussed:

- Coastal GasLink meetings with a number of ministries
 - o Clean Energy and Major Projects Office (CEMPO)
 - o Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI),
 - o CEMPO and MUNI Socio-Economic Management Committee
 - Main focus LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink SEEMP
- Local campsites used by workers
- Thank you to Coastal GasLink for their assistance during the 2023 Wildfire Event
- Compressor Station costing
 - o Awaiting final investment decision to determine costing
- Waste management impacts from pipeline construction and camps
 - o Pressure on RDBN landfills as project moved forward
 - o Having further discussion regarding camp waste data and identify costs to plan accordingly for Coastal GasLink's needs and the RDBN long-term planning with the potential future development of Phase 2
 - o Lessons learned during Phase 1
 - o Will schedule a meeting in the future to have further discussions.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Moulton and Ms. Weaver for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

Planning Department Initiated Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Site Specific Zoning Text Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson
Amendments 1st & 2nd
Reading, Bylaw Nos. 2033, 2034
& 2035 – Electoral Areas A, B, E

2024-4-5

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2033, 2024 be given first and second reading this 21st day of March, 2024 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2034, 2024 be given first and second reading this 21st day of March, 2024 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

3. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2035, 2024 be given first and second reading this 21st day of March, 2024 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

4. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2033, 2024, also serve as the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2034, 2024, and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2035, 2024, and that the Public Hearing be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for 3rd Reading and Adoption

Public Notice Bylaw Moved by Director Stoltenberg
- 3rd Reading and Adoption Seconded by Director Elphee
Report and Public Notice Policy

2024-4-6

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Public Notice Bylaw No. 2032, 2024 be given third reading and adoption this 21st day of March, 2024.

2. That the Board approve the Public Notice Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT

Development Variance Permit Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Application No. A-01-24 Seconded by Director Atrill
-Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural)

2024-4-7

“That the Board approve Development Variance Permit A-01-24 for the property located at 327 Prairie Road to vary Section 12.0.5.1.b) of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 by reducing the setback for a structure from a side parcel line which does not abut a Highway from 2 m to 0.31 m for the proposed cabin addition.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
-Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof
Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-4-8

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
-Electoral Area C (Fort St.
James Rural)

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-4-9

“That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALR Applications

Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) ALR Application 1265 – Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-4-10

1. "That Agricultural Land Reserve Application 1265 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval with the further recommendation that the ALC ensure appropriate remediation throughout the life of the gravel quarry.

2. That the Agricultural Land Commission and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation be requested to ensure that an adequate dust mitigation plan is in place to address concerns regarding the impact of dust on adjacent residents and farms."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) ALR Application 1266 – Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-4-11

"That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1266 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval, with a further recommendation that the ALC ensure appropriate phased remediation throughout the life of the gravel pit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral

Land Referral No. 7410325 -Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-12

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410325."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REGIONAL TRANSIT

BC Transit Bus Service Funding

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-4-13

“That the Board receive the Director of Planning’s BC Transit Bus Service Funding memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Overview of BC Transit Bus Service Funding memorandum
- No cost certainty from the Province beyond 2025
- Strategy moving forward
- Northern Development funding support
- User fee increases
 - Fee increase moratorium ends March 2025
 - Discuss in anticipation of moratorium ending
- Areas of the region along the Highway 16 corridor opting out of the service may impact efficiencies
- Northern BC Inter-Community Transportation Study
 - Identified gaps
 - Many different entities currently provide local, regional and inter-regional service provision, often with overlaps
 - Recommendations
- Northern Development determining efficiencies for transportation along the Highway 16 corridor
- Villages of Fraser Lake and Granisle and 10 First Nations community shuttle services
- Lack of busing services in Fort St. James
 - Seniors Helping Seniors bus for seniors only
 - Two First Nations communities have buses
- Importance of regional busing system and community busing
- Work with other Regional Districts and municipalities along Highway 16 to support a bus system
- Staff will follow up with BC Transit and the Province and bring forward a report to the Board
- Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit
 - Fare review can be completed in anticipation of the end of the moratorium in March 2025
 - Coordinated regional system
 - Would require different agreements
 - Currently different funding models between local governments
 - Province’s cancellation of the bus service in Golden.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Committee Meeting
Recommendation
-March 7, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-14

"That the Board approve Committee Meeting recommendation 1 as written:

Rural/Agriculture Committee – March 7, 2024

Recommendation 1:

Re: Agricultural Plastics (3-year) Pilot Project

"That the Board direct staff to explore a one-year renewal of the Agricultural Plastics (3- year) Pilot Project focusing on on-farm collection; and further, that staff bring forward funding options to the Board prior to the end of the current pilot in June 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Keeping it Rural Conference
-May 21-23, 2024 – Kelowna,
BC

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-15

"That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Keeping it Rural Conference from May 21-23, 2024 in Kelowna, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Five Year Financial Plan
Bylaw 2036 for Adoption

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-4-16

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2036, 2024 be adopted this 21st day of March, 2024."

(All/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

BC Provincial Nominee
Program Entrepreneur
Immigration – Regional
Stream Participation

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-4-17

“That the Board approve continued participation in the BC Provincial Nominee Program Entrepreneur Immigration - Regional stream.”

Opposed: Director Riis-Christianson CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Discussion took place regarding the lack of applicants since the RDBN reinstated its BC Provincial Nominee Program Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Stream Participation. The goal of the program, value and process were also discussed. The option to pause participation remains in place for any local government wishing to no longer participate.

Grant in Aid for Areas B
(Burns Lake Rural) and E
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
-Lakes District Family
Enhancement Society

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-4-18

“That the Board approve allocating \$7,100 in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies (split 50/50) to the Lakes Family Enhancement Society for computers and a vacuum for the Link center.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community Building
Fund Electoral Area F
(Vanderhoof Rural) - Arena
Mechanical System Upgrade

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-4-19

1. “That the Board authorize contributing up to \$62,500 of Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to the District of Vanderhoof for a Recreation Infrastructure project at the Vanderhoof Arena, and

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$62,500 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Canada Community Building
Fund Electoral Area A
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
-Telkwa Multi-Sport Outdoor
Court Project

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-4-20

"That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Canada Community Building Fund Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) – Telkwa Multi-Sport Outdoor Court Project memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vanderhoof Rural Fire
Protection Agreement
Renewal

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-4-21

"That the Board approve the renewal of the Vanderhoof Rural Fire Protection Agreement for an additional five-year term starting January 1, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Emergency
Management and Climate
Readiness – *Emergency
Management Act* (EDMA)

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-22

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regarding *Emergency Management Act* (EDMA)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board expressed appreciation for the engagement from the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Wildlife Habitat Area Proposal for Southern Mountain Caribou in the Nadina Natural Resource District – Requesting a Review and Submission of Written Comments by April 30, 2024 Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-4-23

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship regarding Wildlife Habitat Area Proposal for Southern Mountain Caribou in the Nadina Natural Resource District – Requesting a Review and Submission of Written Comments by April 30, 2024.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the Southern Mountain Caribou being located in areas outside of Houston as indicated in the letter and having Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship attend a future meeting. The District of Houston is preparing a letter to provide to the Ministry and will share it with the Regional District.

Province of BC – Help on the Way to B.C. Veterinarian Clinics that Treat Farm Animals Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-4-24

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Province of BC – Help on the Way to B.C. Veterinarian Clinics that Treat Farm Animals.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of B.C. Municipalities -Provincial Response to 2023 Resolution Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-25

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities – Provincial Response to 2023 Resolution.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 11:48 a.m.

Reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update Director Greenaway mentioned she attended a meeting with Chad Thompson, Executive Vice President, College of New Caledonia. They are implementing a new course delivery model at their campuses outside of Prince George. Cindy Heitman, President and CEO, CNC will be visiting Fort St. James to provide information on the new direction.

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

- Tom Forsythe Arena and Burns Lake Curling Club now have ice
 - o Thank you to Directors Lambert and Riis-Christianson for their support
- Richmond Loop Intersection Development
 - o Final drawings have been submitted and awaiting BC Hydro approvals
- Village Heights Accelerated Housing grant applications was denied and will be looking at alternative solutions.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) – Update Director Stoltenberg attended a Senior Community Collective Social Prescribing by the Smithers Community Services and funded by the United Way that focuses on seniors and ways to help outside of medical and hospital care. Director Stoltenberg indicated he would like to reach out to the Town of Smithers and Village of Telkwa to discuss senior mobility in the communities.

Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire mentioned that the Village of Granisle met with the RCMP Chief Superintendent and Superintendent and RCMP Sargent and Corporals from the Houston Detachment. She noted that the Village of Granisle has been strongly advocating for RCMP to be in Granisle. The RCMP has two houses with one currently being utilized for members and they will move forward with furnishing the second house to use for additional RCMP members to be stationed in the community. The Village of Granisle, in partnership with the RCMP, is making a recruitment video to showcase the opportunities for RCMP members considering retirement and wanting to complete their RCMP career in a location they can retire. They wish to utilize the video to recruit other professionals to the community as well.

Director McGuire also noted that the Village is working with a consultant to complete its Zoning Amendments under the provincial June 30, 2024 deadline.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Village of Fraser Lake Update

Alternate Director Fennema provided the following update;

- Fraser Lake Curling Club held its first tournament which went well
- Continuing to work with the Province regarding the West Fraser Mill closure, as well as hosting community Town Hall meetings, job transition meetings and Job Fairs. A number of employees that are nearing retirement are considering that as an option.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)- Update

Director Moon noted that the 2024 cattle auctions have begun and the cattle prices are good. There are concerns regarding the weather and drought conditions.

District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee reported the following:

- Fort St. James Curling Rink ice plant failed and needed repairs will hopefully be complete prior to the 2024/2025 winter season
- District of Fort St. James signed its Stage 1 Wildfire Resiliency Plan
- The District of Fort St. James will be fully staffed as of March 25th.

Town of Smithers -Update

Director Atrill commented that the Town of Smithers and the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs will be having a Community to Community Forum.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker spoke of the following:

- Attended the RBA Announcement by the Honourable David Eby, Premier and the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs in Terrace, March 15th
- West Fraser Sawmill Closure Transition meetings
 - o A number of people are considering camp work and staying in the community
- Attending the UBCM Chair/CAO Forum March 25-26 in Victoria
- Concerns regarding drought conditions and minimal snow pack
 - o Provincial agriculture relief funding differences between southern and northern areas of the Province
 - o Additional funds have been announced to mitigate drought
- Will be attending an upcoming meeting with the Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Prince George with Directors Lambert and Moon.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Receipt of Verbal
Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-4-26

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-4-27

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

- Future Service Provision
- Connectivity Projects
- Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)
- Labour Relations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-4-28

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:43 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services