

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 5 (VIRTUAL)**

**Thursday, April 11, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Shane Brienen - arrived at 10:34 a.m.  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey  
Henry Wiebe

Directors Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Absent Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa  
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James

Alternate Directors Judith Friesen, District of Fort St. James  
Frank Wray, Town of Smithers

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning

Others Lindsay Taylor, BC Transit – left at 10:43 a.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Alt. Director Wray

**2024-5-1** “That the Board Meeting Agenda of April 11, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
-March 21, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-5-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

### **Bylaw for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Rezoning Application RZ  
RDBN 01-24 – Small Scale  
Multi-Unit Housing Zoning  
Bylaw Amendments  
Bylaw No. 2039

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-5-3

1. "That the Board consider the Provincial Policy Manual and Site Standards document and the site standards discussed in this report.

2. That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2039, 2024" be given first, second, and third reading this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Mine Referral**

Notice of Work Referral  
No. 2000409  
Electoral Area C  
(Fort St. James Rural)

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-5-4

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No. 2000409."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**OTHER**

Parcel Frontage on a  
Highway

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-5-5

1. "That the Board repeal the decision made at the February 20, 1986 Board meeting to delegate the Board's authority to exempt subdivisions from the 10% minimum frontage requirement for subdivision applications.
2. That the 1986 Board delegation remain applicable to all subdivision applications received by the Province before April 12, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**REGIONAL TRANSIT**

BC Transit Bus Service  
Funding

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Alt. Director Wray

2024-5-6

"That the Board send a letter to the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding Public Transportation in the RDBN."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Canada Community-Building  
Fund BC – Area E (Francois/  
Ootsa Lake Rural) Grassy  
Plains Hall Foundation Repair  
Project

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-5-7

1. "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$160,000 of Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Recreation Infrastructure Project for the Grassy Plains Community Hall, and further,
2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$160,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

BC Farmers' Market Moved by Director Storey  
Economic Impact Study Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-5-8 "That the Board receive the report from Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator titled BC Farmers' Market Economic Impact Study."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

### **Director Riis-Christianson, Chair, Connectivity Committee re: Ministry of Citizens' Services Meeting Update**

Director Riis-Christianson reported that he, along with Chair Parker and Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services met with Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Dave Christie, Regional Manager, Bulkley-Nechako Regional Economic Operations, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, and Ethan Fredeen, CAO, Village of Fraser Lake. Discussion took place on the following:

- Transparent mapping
  - o Province is looking at a program that will show connectivity information for each property
- Recognition of communication challenges with Internet Service Providers (ISPs)
  - o Federal Government is in control of the process
- Challenges with developing and moving projects forward with ISPs
- ADM spoke about one cell phone provider that is working with StarLink to develop a process where cell phone users can utilize the StarLink system (new technology)

Chair Parker added that the following was also discussed:

- Grant funding for NG911
  - o Limitations to using the funding – need more flexibility
  - o ADM Stanford will look into and get back to RDBN

Chair Riis-Christianson mentioned that some projects identify costs of up to \$75,000 per household. He added that the last 1-2% of households may require a system such as Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite service. Households may be considered served if using satellite systems.

### **Director Clint Lambert, Chair, Rural/Agriculture Committee re: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Meeting Update**

Director Lambert reported that he, along with Chair Parker, Director Moon, and Megan D'Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator met with Michelle Koski, Assistant Deputy Minister and Brent Barclay, Director, Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Discussion took place on the following:

- Vet File
- Wildfires
  - o Range Officer being taken out of Emergency Operations Centre

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

- Assistance for hay
- Irrigation – pipes, dams, infrastructure
  - o Community irrigation systems
  - o Need to build a case to ensure that project money is provided in the north
    - Consider exploring larger systems in our region
- Three Phase Power
- Vegetable Market
- ALR – 2 Zone system
  - o Discussed how it worked in the past
  - o Had mechanism to discuss economic, cultural and social aspects
- Telkwa Abattoir in transition
  - o discussed options
- Farmgate and Farmgate Plus licensing
  - o Both are uninspected
  - o Requirements for infrastructure and training
  - o 25 animal unit cap on Farmgate Plus licenses might be too low if there isn't other processing capacity

### **Chair Parker – Chair/CAO Forum**

Chair Parker reported that he attended the Chair/CAO Forum along with Curtis Helgesen, CAO.

Discussion took place on the following:

- Session on culture of conduct
- How to deal with public – attendance at public meetings
- Sunshine Coast Regional District– app – input address and it populates services provided
- Fire Safety Act – challenges with RDs doing inspections
- EDMA – lots of concerns from RDs re regulations
- Unity among RDs – re need for influence on regulations
- Update on legislative changes for RDs
- Ongoing discussion re powers of RDs – concerns about what works in the south doesn't necessarily work in the north
  - o Legislation written using 'you may' instead of 'you must'

### **Other**

Director McGuire reported that last year Minister Dix announced that there would be changes to BC Ambulance in 2024. The changes representing 3 different models were implemented on April 1. BC Emergency Health Services requested a quote from Mayor McGuire regarding their news release titled "More ambulance services in rural and remote communities in northern B.C."

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-5-9

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-5-10

"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:

- Connectivity Projects
- Labour Relations
- Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-5-11

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:16 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services