

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 9**

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**

|                 |                        |   |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Chair                  | Mark Parker   |
|                 | Directors              | Shane Brienen<br>Leroy Dekens<br>Martin Elphee<br>Judy Greenaway<br>Clint Lambert – via Zoom – left at 10:45 a.m., returned at 10:50 a.m., left at 11:25, returned at 11:56 a.m.<br>Linda McGuire<br>Shirley Moon<br>Chris Newell – left at 11:31 a.m., returned at 11:42 a.m.<br>Michael Riis-Christianson<br>Stoney Stoltenberg   |
|                 | Directors<br>Absent    | Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers<br>Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof<br>Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake<br>Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake   |
|                 | Alternate<br>Directors | Audrey Fennema, Village of Fraser Lake<br>Brian Frenkel, District of Vanderhoof – left at 11:54 a.m., returned at 11:56 a.m.<br>Charlie Rensby, Village of Burns Lake – via Zoom<br>Frank Wray, Town of Smithers  |
|                 | Staff                  | Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer<br>John Illes, Chief Financial Officer<br>Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – via Zoom – arrived at 10:58 a.m.<br>Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agricultural Coordinator – via Zoom<br>Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom<br>Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner – left at 11:31 a.m.<br>Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services |
|                 | Others                 | Gregory Bartle, Land Use Planner, Ministry of Agriculture and Food – left at 11:31 a.m.<br>John Stevenson, Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food – left at 11:31 a.m.   |

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-9-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of June 6, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
-May 23, 2024

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-9-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2024 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DELEGATION**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD – Gregory Bartle, Land Use Planner and John Stevenson, Regional Agrologist Re: B.C. Land Use Planning for Agriculture for Local Government Elected Officials**

Chair Parker welcomed Gregory Bartle, Land Use Planner and John Stevenson, Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Bartle provided a PowerPoint presentation.

B.C. Land Use Planning for Agriculture – Local Government Elected Officials Presentation

- Why Agriculture?
- Supporting Agriculture in Your Community
- Pressure on the ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve) and B.C.'s Farming (6 big points)
  - Limited Arable Land
  - Cost of Agricultural Land
  - Urbanization
  - Housing Demands
  - Demographics
  - Lack of Industrial Land
- Tools in the Toolbox
- Key Messages
- Key Actions

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

### **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD – Gregory Bartle, Land Use Planner and John Stevenson, Regional Agrologist Re: B.C. Land Use Planning for Agriculture for Local Government Elected Officials (Cont'd)**

The following was discussed:

- Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) in the Vanderhoof area
- Ministry of Agriculture's use of "finite" and "limited" amounts of agricultural land in the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Expansion of the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) boundary in the Vanderhoof area
- Agricultural Development Areas (ADAs)
- Ministry of Agriculture's consideration of expanding the ALR boundary
  - o Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) have no current plans to review ALR boundaries
- Importance of agriculture to the economy in the region
- RDBN zoning designations within the ALR
- Underutilized land that could be used for intensive agriculture
- Impacts of foreign ownership
  - o Purchasing farm properties and closing the house and farm
  - o Concerns regarding water access/potential export
  - o Limits the ability for young people to purchase farmland
  - o B.C. one of the only provinces without regulations regarding foreign ownership of farmland
  - o RDBN brought forward the issue in the past to the province and the Senate of Canada and continues to raise the issue
- Investment Agriculture Fund
  - o Importance of water for agriculture
  - o Improved data is needed
  - o Water purveying
    - Support business and agriculture
    - Utilizing the water resource in the region.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Bartle and Stevenson for attending the meeting.

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

### **Land Referral**

Crown Land Application                      Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Referral No. 7410339                      Seconded by Director Moon  
Electoral Areas D (Fraser Lake  
Rural) and F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2024-9-3                                      "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the  
Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application  
Referral No. 7410339."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will include comments asking the Province to have communication with leaseholders located near the Crown Land Application.

### ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Reconsideration of Motion Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
2024-7-8 – Purchase of a New Compact Excavator Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-9-4

"That Motion 2024-7-8 Purchase of a New Compact Excavator be brought forward for reconsideration in accordance with Section 217 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 131 of the *Community Charter*."

Opposed: Director Moon      CARRIED  
                  Director Newell

(All/Directors/2/3)

Union of BC Municipalities Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
-Minister Meetings/ Seconded by Alternate Director Wray  
Ministry Staff Meetings/  
Resolutions

2024-9-5

"That the Board approve the following resolutions for submission to UBCM:

- Expansion of Community Forests for Increased Access to Fiber
- Provincial Funding for Unbiased Natural Resources Dataset
- Enhancing the Environmental Assessment Process
- Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers

And further,

That the Board request the following Minister Meetings during the UBCM Convention:

- Premier (Provincial Funding for Unbiased Natural Resources Dataset)
- Minister of Health (Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Worker Shortage Resolutions)
- Minister of Housing and Government House Leader (Housing Support in Northern and Small Communities Resolution)
- Minister of Forests (Industry Shutdown – Timber Rights and Expansion of Community Forests for Increased Access to Fiber Resolutions)
- Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (Search and Rescue – Capability Approval Process Resolution)

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (Enhancing the Environmental Assessment Process Resolution).

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Drafting a resolution concerning foreign ownership of agricultural lands
- Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff
- 2023 UBCM RDBN resolution NR13 Vaccine Mandate
  - o Submitting the resolution for the 2024 UBCM Resolution session.
  - o The process for Not Endorse Block (NEB) Resolution Category
  - o At the time the NEB is brought forward the local government must request the resolution they support to be pulled and speak to the resolution
  - o The resolution requires a 2/3 majority vote to be pulled
- Scheduling a meeting with Northern Health at the 2024 UBCM Convention
- Bringing forward issues/concerns brought forward at UBCM to 2024 Provincial Election All Candidates Forums in order to bring forward the current Board advocacy topics of high priority.

RDBN Procedure Bylaw No. 2042, 2024 and Electronic Meeting Policy

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-9-6

"That the Board rescind third reading of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Procedure Bylaw No. 2042, 2024 and give third reading as amended this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Smithers Rural Recreation And Culture Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2051, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-9-7

"That Smithers Rural Recreation and Culture Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2051, 2024 be given first, second, and third reading this 6th day of June, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Business Façade Improvement Moved by Director Greenaway  
Application – Pitka Bay Resort Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-9-8 “That the Board approve the Business Façade Improvement application from Pitka Bay Resort for \$5,000.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Response to RDBN Letter Concerning the Delivery of Search and Rescue Services in British Columbia Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-9-9 “That the Board receive the correspondence from the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) – Response to RDBN Letter Concerning the Delivery of Search and Rescue Services in British Columbia.’

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will forward the letter to Search and Rescue teams in the region requesting feedback on the response letter received by EMCR.

Minister of Housing - Response – Secondary Suite Incentive Program and Joint Letter from North Coast, Comox Valley, Central Coast Regional Districts and RDBN Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-9-10 “That the Board receive the correspondence from Minister of Housing providing a response Secondary Suite Incentive Program and Joint Letter from North Coast, Comox Valley, Central Coast Regional Districts and RDBN.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-9-11

"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:

- Labour Relations
- First Nations - MOU

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-9-12

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services