

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 16

Thursday, October 24, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom
Shane Brienen
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:55 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services – via Zoom –
left at 12:08, returned at 12:59 p.m.
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – arrived at 11:41 a.m.,
left at 11:45 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Cameron Kral, Planner – left at 10:23 a.m.
Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner – left at 10:23 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

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

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2024-16-1 "That the Board Meeting Agenda of October 24, 2024 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-October 10, 2024

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Moon

2024-16-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2024 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural/Agriculture
Committee Meeting Minutes
-October 10, 2024

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-16-3

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2024 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaws for 3rd Reading

Rezoning Application
RZ A-02-24 – 3rd Reading
for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2061
-Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-16-4

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2061, 2024.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2061, 2024 be given third reading this 24th day of October, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Development Variance Permit

Development Variance Permit Moved by Director Storey
Application No. A-03-24 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-16-5

1. "That the Board receive the written and referral comments on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That the Board approve Development Variance Permit (DVP) A-03-24 for the subject properties located on Old Babine Lake Road, to vary Section 16.0.3.1 of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 by reducing the minimum Parcel area that may be created by subdivision from 16 ha to 8 ha for Proposed Lot 1 to permit the proposed boundary adjustment."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Advisory Planning
Commission - Minutes
October 7, 2024 - Electoral
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-16-6

"That the Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2024 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Responsible Conduct Framework for Local Government Elected Officials

The following was discussed:

- Joint initiative of UBCM and LGMA
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs participated in the working group
- Opportunity to provide comments
- Education is key to a good code of conduct and better outcomes
 - o Education and resources for elected officials are needed
- Importance of having a code of conduct in place prior to an incident occurring
- Enforcement process for breach of conduct
- Model II: Provincial Requirements for Centralized Administration and Enforcement
 - o Concerns regarding provincial oversight and timely action

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Responsible Conduct Framework for Local Government Elected Officials (Cont'd)

- Mandatory/standardized Codes of Conduct
 - o Provide guidelines for local government representatives
 - o Local governments to have the ability to develop Codes of Conduct that are unique to themselves and can be amended when required
 - o Review on a yearly basis
 - o Ensuring the ability for free speech and freedom of expression in a respectful manner
- RDBN Code of Conduct
 - o Well written
 - o Potentially include
 - A formal resolution for complaints
 - Reporting on findings and recommendations
 - Findings on sanctions if imposed
- Enforcement/Accountability
 - o Ministry of Municipal Affairs can be a resource if there are unresolvable issues
 - o Ability to enforce code of conducts
 - o Importance of having a process in place
 - o Enforceable issues occurring more
 - o Legal process for unlawful behaviour
- Enforcement is not included in the Responsible Conduct Framework for Local Government Elected Officials Models I, II and III
- Challenges when there is an inability to address bad behaviour
 - o Impacts on community, staff and the local government
- Providing clear guidelines concerning acceptable behaviour
- Local government officials elected by the people
- RDBN feedback and comments
 - o Local governments mandated to have code of conduct
 - o Standard guidelines with the assurance that all local governments have the ability to develop a Code of Conduct that works best for them
 - o The need for a process/procedure to be in place over and above the code of conduct
 - o Reviewing options for strategies to address issues that occur beyond a Code of Conduct
 - o Ability for local governments to access experts to develop policies and be a resource.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed Workshop
-November 29, 2024 – Prince George, B.C.

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-16-7

“That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed Workshop on November 29, 2024 in Prince George, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Future Fuels Forum
-January 13-14, 2025
-Prince George, BC

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-16-8

“That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the Future Fuels Forum – January 13-14, 2025 in Prince George, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Natural Resources Forum
-January 14-16, 2025
-Prince George, BC

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-16-9

“That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the BC Natural Resources Forum, January 14-16, 2025 in Prince George, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Departmental Quarterly Reports – 3rd Quarter

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-16-10

“That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services’ Departmental Quarterly Reports – 3rd Quarter memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-16-11 "That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Corporate Services' Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Citizens' Services Application to the CRTC Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-16-12 "That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Ministry of Citizens' Services Application to the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission) memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter of Support of CRTC Application 8000-P114-202404929 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-16-13 1. "That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako write a letter in support of Canadian Radio-Television & Telecommunications Commission Application 8000-P114-202404929 and submit it to the CRTC;
2. And that individual RDBN directors are encouraged to support the application and file a response to the application;
3. And that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako send a copy of CRTC Application 8000-P114-202404929 and the regional district's response to all RDBN municipalities and NCLGA members encouraging them to support the application."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fire Safety Act Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-16-14 "That the Board receive the Regional Fire Chief's *Fire Safety Act* memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Bulkley Valley Cross Country
Ski Club Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-16-15 "That the Board receive the thank you letter from the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club regarding the establishment of the Recreation Contribution Grant Program."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Agriculture and
Food Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-16-16 "That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in response to the RDBN letter regarding the impact of the closure of the Canfor Plateau Sawmill in Vanderhoof."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board discussed the following:

- Continued advocacy with the Province
- Shavings will no longer be available from Canfor's Plateau Sawmill at the end of November, 2024
- District of Vanderhoof in discussions regarding Community Forest fibre for shavings
- Grant funding for grinding infrastructure for shavings
- RDBN role and Nechako Valley Cattlemen's Association's role
- Discussions with the BC Livestock Producers Co-op, Vanderhoof
 - An individual in Vanderhoof operates a wood shaving machine
- Potential to work with Community Forests conducting wildfire mitigation work throughout the region
 - Creates potential grazing lands
 - Potential to work with Cattleman's Associations
 - Use wildfire mitigation work and transition funding to develop a shavings project
- Possible opportunities to review the Pellet Plant certification requirements process for fibre
- Opportunity for small business
- Chair Parker and Director Moon will schedule a meeting with the BC Livestock Producers Co-op, Nechako Valley Cattlemen's Association and District of Vanderhoof to discuss the lack of shavings for agriculture bedding.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Housing

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-16-17

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Housing in response to meeting at the 2024 UBCM Convention."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-16-18

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship in response to meeting at the 2024 UBCM Convention."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Committee Meeting Recommendation -October 10, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-16-19

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

Rural/Agriculture Committee – October 10, 2024

Recommendation 1:

Re: Community Works Funds and Regional Grant in Aid

That the Board approve in principle allocating up to a maximum \$724,000 annually from the RDBN's Community Works Fund allocation to the Environmental Services Capital Budget, and an equivalent amount in Regional Grant in Aid in the administration budget in the 2025-2029 draft financial plans.

And that the Board direct staff to develop an amended Grant in Aid Policy and new Community Works Fund Allocation Policy that reflects the changes to the program and recommends alternative actions if the full Grant in Aid balance is not spent annually."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA (CONT'D)

ADMINISTRATION REPORT (CONT'D)

Mental Health and Addictions Accord – Mental Health and Addictions Symposium -November 13-14, 2024, Prince George Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-16-20

“That the Board endorse the Mental Health and Addictions Accord; and

That the Board appoint Director Greenaway as the representative available to participate in the signing ceremony at the Mental Health and Addictions Symposium on November 13 and 14, 2024, in Prince George, BC.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recessed for Lunch at 12:08 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:52 p.m.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

District of Houston – Update Director Brienens attended the Nation2Nation Forum October 8-10, 2024 in Terrace, B.C. He noted that the event was very good and encouraged the Board to consider attending in 2025.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update Director Greenaway noted that the cold weather shelter in Fort St. James will be opened November 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

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

- Currently attending the Wildfire Risk Reduction Community to Community Forum at Ts'il Kaz Koh's Gathering Place – October 23-25
- Richmond Loop Paving project nearing completion
- Foundry Building is moving forward
- Burns Lake Fire Rescue is having an open house of their new building on November 9th.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area G (Houston/ Telkwa Rural) – Update

Director Newell noted that with the closure of sawmills concerns have been raised regarding the maintenance of Forest Service Roads and the access to the backcountry for outdoor recreational purposes. He spoke about the implications to small businesses. Director Lambert commented that the Burns Lake Snowmobile Club has similar concerns as well.

District of Vanderhoof -Update

Director Moutray spoke of the efforts to support the community with Canfor's Plateau Sawmill Closure Announcement. He commented that the fibre supply leaving the community and going to other communities for milling is a concern.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/ Telkwa Rural) – Update

Director Stoltenberg attended the Lake Kathlyn Protection Society AGM and discussed the recent storms diverting needed fresh water to the lake.

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire provided the following update:

- Connectivity fibre to the home project will be pausing due to the oncoming winter weather and is planned to be completed in the Spring of 2025
- Senior's housing project is moving forward
- Village of Granisle Municipal Office is moving to its new location in the renovated former health centre the beginning of December, 2024
- Attended Lakes District Maintenance's partners meeting
 - Discussed the heavy traffic for the project creating deterioration of the road detour and bridge
- House sales continue to see sellers receiving full asking price
- Raised concerns regarding the provincial tax sale process and supporting the City of Merritt in its advocacy at the provincial level to amend the *Community Chart* Tax Sale process.

Village of Fraser Lake–Update

Director Storey noted the following:

- The closure of the Fraser Lake and Plateau sawmills has had a significant impact on Fraser Lake and area
- Attended a portion of the Northern BC Tourism conference in Prince George
- Attended the 2025 NCLGA AGM and Conference Planning Meetings
- Encouraged the Board to attend the Mental Health Symposium co-hosted by the NCLGA in Prince George November 13-14, 2024.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)-Update Director Riis-Christianson brought forward connectivity issues in Rural Burns Lake. He commented that residents on Goodwin, Hope and Willowbrook Road were promised fibre to the home in 2023 and it has not occurred. This area is considered served. Telus has indicated that there are issues with accessing the poles. Director Riis-Christianson emphasized the issues surrounding Internet Service Providers being held accountable to ensure that homes have adequate internet service.

Village of Telkwa – Update Director Dekens attended the Road Maintenance stakeholders meeting and they discussed utilizing brine on the highways prior to snow fall.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update Director Moon noted that cattle sales at the auction are good. She indicated that with the past years cull of cattle due to lack of feed the future is uncertain.

District of Fort St. James -Update Director Elphee provided the following update:

- First phase of FireSmart works is complete behind the hospital
- Stones Bay Road waterline expansion is now complete.
- Phase I of the Airport Expansion is complete and Phase II is moving forward.

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Director Lambert is also attending the Wildfire Resiliency Community to Community Forum at the T'sil Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band). Director Lambert noted that he reached out to the First Nations communities on the Southside of Francois Lake to ensure they were included in the invitation. Director Lambert met with Nee Tahi Buhn Band recently regarding three nations water project and with Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Skin Tyee Nation and Nee Tahi Buhn Band regarding a helipad at the Southside Health and Wellness Centre.

Chair Parker, Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) – Update - Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Attended the Northern Credit Union Annual Fall Northern Peers Meeting October 18, 2024 in Smithers, B.C.
 - Thank you to staff for providing a PowerPoint presentation
 - Great opportunity to create awareness
 - Will provide the PowerPoint presentation to the Board

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Participated in Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto's Governance Course for two days
 - Focused on boardroom governance
 - Very good training opportunity
- Yellowhead Road and Bridge Road Maintenance will host their stakeholder meeting November 7th
- Working with the Village of Fraser Lake community transition concerning sawmill closures in the region.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienens

2024-16-18

"That the Board receive the various Directors verbal reports."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Highway 16 Transit Bus

Director Moon spoke of the importance of promoting the Highway 16 Transit Bus to ensure awareness of the service.

Log Decks in the Region

Director Lambert brought forward concerns regarding log decks being left on the ground in the Colleymount area. The following was discussed:

- BC Timber Sales responsible for the decked wood
- Needs to be processed prior to the 2025 wildfire season
- Questions were raised how to move and process the wood
- After the 2018 wildfire season decked wood was left on the ground and burnt by Forestry
- Opportunity for Pellet mills to bid on the wood
- Permit process for sawmills can be onerous
 - What is the permit process?
- Limited shelf life if spruce sits
- If the wood has black fungus the mills will not process
- Importance of forest health
 - Decked spruce is prone to spruce beetle which impacts forest health
- Wood salvaged from wildfires needs to be processed
- How much decked wood is throughout the region?
- Invite BC Timber Sales to attend a future meeting
- BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) clean up of burnt timber in the Germansen Landing/Manson Creek area in partnership with community group
 - Enquire with BCTS if this project would be considered in other areas.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-16-19

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

- Labour Relations
- Strategic Plan
- First Nations MOU."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-16-20

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:26 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services