

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 18

Thursday, December 12, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen – left at 1:26 p.m., returned at 1:32 p.m.
Leroy Dekens – via Zoom
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell – left at 10:49 a.m., returned at 10:52 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey – arrived at 10:04 a.m.
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – via Zoom, arrived in-person at 11:46 a.m., returned to Zoom at 1:35 p.m.
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 11:05 a.m., left at 12:01 p.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:09 a.m., left at 11:45 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:09 a.m., returned at 11:20 a.m., left at 12:01 p.m., returned at 1:33 p.m.
Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner – arrived at 10:55 a.m., left at 11:07 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Christopher Walker, Emergency Program Manager – arrived at 11:48 a.m., left at 1:20 p.m.
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – left at 10:23 a.m., returned at 11:48 a.m., left at 1:20 p.m.

Others Neal Marincak, District Manager, Nadina Resource District, Ministry of Forests – left at 10:49 a.m.
Jon Penninga, Woodlands Supervisor, Babine Business Area, Ministry of Forests – left at 10:49 a.m.
Mike Watson, Woodlands Manager, Nadina Resource District, Ministry of Forests – left at 10:49 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA &

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-18-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of December 12, 2024 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-November 21, 2024

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Newell

2024-18-2

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS – BC TIMBER SALES – Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Jon Penninga, Woodlands Supervisor, Babine Area, Mike Watson Woodlands Manager, BC Timber Sales

Chair Parker welcomed Neal Marincak, Resource Manager, Nadina District, Jon Penninga, Woodlands Supervisor, Babine Area and Mike Watson Woodlands Manager, BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Forests.

Mr. Penninga and Marincak provided a PowerPoint presentation.

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Babine Wildfire Salvage

- BCTS Goals/Objectives
- Wildfire Salvage Overview
 - o Colleymount
- BCTS Babine Wildfire Salvage
- Additional Comments/Consideration
- Wildfire Recovery Team – new team to address wildfire recovery
- The Challenge
- Contrasting Success with Salvage
- Colleymount Example
- Compounding issues in Colleymount
- Decks under powerlines. Clearance required from BC Hydro
- Working adjacent a highway. Approvals and deposit required
- Solutions.

The following was discussed:

- Decks of wood remaining on road right of way/private land being utilized for firewood
- Licence to cut
 - o Options to utilize fibre for value added
 - o Under 2,000 m³ direct award over a competitive bid
 - o Stumpage Rate Appraisal Manual
 - o Process to acquire a licence to cut
- Drax Burns Lake (Pellet Plant)
 - o Business decision regarding the use of fibre near old growth forests
 - o Future benefits if Drax could utilize the wildfire salvaged fibre
- Forest health concerns regarding the potential for spruce beetle infestation with the wood being decked and left on the landscape
- Concerns regarding the bond required by Ministry of Transportation and Transit to utilize the roadway to remove the salvaged wood
 - o Advocating with BC Hydro and MoTT to provide considerations in order to remove the wood from the landscape
- BC Timber Sales - Category 4 – Value-added Program
 - o Challenges selling the wood due to powerlines and bond required by MoTT
 - o Options to discuss with successful bidders of adjacent Timber Sale Licence (TSL) to remove the wood
- Cheslatta working to remove decked wood on the southside of Francois Lake
 - o Unique circumstance
- Importance of removing wood from the landscape by spring of 2025
 - o Challenges regarding the exact locations of the decked wood
- Sustainability in the forest industry
- Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) established by the Province
 - o Lack of support from local First Nations for the polygons outlined by the province
 - o Burns Lake Community Forest has written a letter to the Ministry of Forests regarding the potential use of the wildfire salvaged wood by Drax in relation to old growth management areas
- Sawmill shutdowns due to no access to fibre and impacts from wildfires
- Write letters identifying the severity of having decked wood on the landscape and the importance of utilizing the fibre
- Ministry of Forests has received letters from local First Nations, Chinook Community Forest and Burns Lake Community Forest.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Marincak and Penninga for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Temporary Use Permit

Temporary Use Permit
B-01-24 – Electoral Area B
(Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-18-3

“That the Board receive the Public Submission and Referral Comments on the Supplementary Agenda.

That the Board approve the issuance of Temporary Use Permit B-01-24 to allow the operation of an airsoft park at 400 Highland Drive.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Advisory Planning
Commission Meeting
Minutes – Electoral Area B
(Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-4

“That the Board receive the Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for November 26, 2024.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Municipal Referral

Village of Telkwa OCP

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-5

“That staff be directed to respond to the Village of Telkwa’s referral request stating that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no concerns with the Village’s Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 778, 2024.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Pipeline Referral

PRGT Project Response Letter Moved by Director Storey
Notification No. 240904 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-18-6 "That the Board receive the Senior Planner's Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project Response Letter for Section 2, 2a, 3, and 4, and Middle River Compressor Site (Notification No. 240904) memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Highway 16 and 27 Moved by Director Moutray
Intersection Improvements Seconded by Director Moon

2024-18-7 "That staff send a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Transit regarding proposed improvements to the Highway 16 and Highway 27 intersection."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Interim Housing Needs Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Reports for the RDBN Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-8 "That the Board receive the following housing needs reports for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako:
a. Regional Summary: Housing Needs Report - 2024 to be attached as Appendix G to the RDBN's 2021 Housing Needs Report.
b. Housing Needs Reports for Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, and G - 2024 to be attached as Appendix B to each Electoral Area's 2021 Housing needs reports."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Area G Recreation Contribution Grant Application Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-18-9

1. "That the Board approve the Recreation Contribution Grant Program funding request in the amount of \$5,000 from Houston Snowmobile Club as recommended by the Electoral Area G / District of Houston / Village of Granisle Recreation Contribution Service Advisory Committee.
2. That the Board authorize staff to enter into a funding agreement for one year with the Houston Snowmobile Club and release the funds in accordance with the agreement."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program Update Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Moon

2024-18-10

"That the Board allocate \$50,000 in the 2025 budget to fund a 1-year extension of the CleanFarms Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following discussion took place regarding the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program:

- Accumulating quality data
- Continuing vs. cancelling the program
- Implications moving forward if the RDBN chooses to not move forward a 1-year funding extension
 - Past practices for agricultural plastics
 - Potentially lose momentum for the initiative
 - Researching markets closer to home
 - Future ICI consideration
- Momentum of the program
 - Additional local government participation
- Canadian Agricultural Ministry's Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP)
 - Same conditions as previous (50% cost share)
 - Decision is expected in early 2025
- RDBN committing to contributing 100% of the program cost for a 1-year extension while awaiting new funding
 - If CASPP funding is approved, RDBN will be reduced to 50% funding
 - If funding denied consider ending the program at the 6 month mark

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (CONT'D)

- Province's movement towards a user pay system
- Percentage of volume of agricultural plastics collected
- Effecting change
- Concerns regarding progress
- Moving towards on-farm approach
 - Farmer to have baler on site
 - Additional education
- Ensuring continuity through 2025
- Regional Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting in February 2025
 - Beneficial for RD staff to attend and present regarding the program.

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-18-11

"That Motion 2024-18-10 be amended to include that the \$50,000 in the 2025 budget to fund a 1-year extension of the CleanFarms Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program be funded from the Northern Capital Planning Grant."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-18-12

"That Motion 2024-18-10 be amended as follows:

And further, that a six month review be completed of the CleanFarms Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program based on the Canadian Agriculture Ministries Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) funding approval."

(All/Directors/Majority) DEFEATED

That the question be called on Motion 2024-18-10 as amended."

Opposed: Director Greenaway
Director Lambert
Director McGuire
Director Newell
Director Wiebe

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

RDBN Appointments 2025

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-13

"That the Board ratify the following appointments for 2025:

Bankers:	Bulkley Valley Credit Union
Lawyers:	Stewart McDannold Stuart, Victoria, B.C. Young Anderson, Vancouver, B.C. Carvello Law Corp., Victoria, B.C.
Election Officers:	Cheryl Anderson, Chief Election Officer Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Chief Election Officer
Signing Authority:	Any two (2) of: Chairperson Vice-Chairperson Director from Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Director from Village of Burns Lake Chief Administrative Officer Chief Financial Officer Director of Corporate Services
Auditors:	Beswick Hildebrandt Lund CPA."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Committee
Appointments 2025

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-18-14

"That the Board ratify the Committee Appointments for
2025."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Connectivity Committee
Disbandment

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-15

"That the Board approve the disbandment of the Connectivity
Committee."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Revised Committee of the Whole and Rural Services Committee Terms of Reference Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Brienen

2024-18-16 "That the Board approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Committee of the Whole and the Rural Services Committee."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area Directors (EAD) Forum – February 6-7, 2025 In Richmond, B.C. Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-17 "That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Electoral Area Directors Forum February 6-7, 2025 in Richmond, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaws for First, Second and Third Reading

Burns Lake & Area Victims' Services Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2059 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-18-18 "That the Burns Lake and Area Victims' Services Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2059, 2024 be given first, second and third reading this 12th day of December 2024."

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-18-19 "That the Board defer the Burns Lake & Area Victims' Services Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2059 to the January 23, 2025 Board meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Smithers Area Victims' Services Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2058 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-18-20 "That the Smithers and Victims' Services Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2058, 2024 be given first, second and third reading this 12th day of December 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaws for First, Second, Third Reading and Adoption

Northwest B.C. Regional
Funding Agreement Reserve
Bylaw No. 2065 Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-18-21 "That the Northwest B.C. Regional Funding Agreement Reserve Bylaw No. 2065, 2024 be given first, second, third reading, and adoption this 12th day of December, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Five Year Financial
Plan Amendment No. 2067 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-18-22 "That the Five-Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2067, 2024, be given first, second, third reading, and adoption this 12th day of December, 2024 with Schedule A Option 2."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 12:02 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Option 1 and 2 regarding the Northwest Regional Funding Agreement amount
 - December 12, 2024 RBA 2025 Draft Budget Proposal memorandum
 - Being flexible in considering projects throughout the region
 - Yearly review of RBA allocation
 - Potential services/projects
 - Service partnerships with First Nations
 - RDBN Office building parking
 - Lighting projects – Fort Fraser
 - Active Transportation
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Potential to improve or create new services
 - Asset management
 - Project funding availability.

Bylaw for Adoption

Director Greenaway declared a conflict of interest due to being a Fort St. James Public Library Board Member and removed herself at 1:12 p.m. regarding the Electoral Area C Public Library Contribution Service Area Establishment Amendment.

Electoral Area C Public Library Contribution Service Area Establishment Amendment Moved by Director Elphee
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-23

"That the Board dispense with the consent of the electoral area director and give participating area approval by consenting to the adoption of Electoral Area C Public Library Contribution Service Area Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2062, 2024, and further,

(All/Directors/Two-thirds)

That Electoral Area C Public Library Contribution Service Area Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2062, 2024 be adopted this 12th day of December, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway returned at 1:13 p.m.

Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Bylaw No. 2056 Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-24

"That Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Service Local Amendment Bylaw No. 2056, 2024 be adopted this 12th day of December, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cluculz Lake – Somerset Estates Sewer Bylaw 2057 Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-18-25

"That Cluculz Lake – Somerset Estates Sewer Local Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2057, 2024 be adopted this 12th day of December, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director Riis-Christianson declared a conflict of interest in relation to his employment with the Lakes District Museum Society and removed himself from the meeting at 1:14 p.m. regarding Regional Grant in Aid from Electoral Area B (Burns Lake).

Regional Grant in Aid from Moved by Director Lambert
Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Seconded by Director Wiebe
Rural)

2024-18-26

"That the Board approve the following applications for Regional Grant in Aid from Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural):

- Burns Lake Air Soft Outhouse and Field Structures - \$18,000
- The Link - Ashurst Children's Center Daycare Bookshelves - \$12,000
- Eagle Creek Recreation Commission Washroom - \$13,170
- Roping Club Coverall - Engineering - \$10,000
- Lakes District Pony Club Safety Equipment - \$6,500
- The Link- Seniors Services Program IT Equipment - \$4,312
- Ride Burns Swoopy Hollow Re-Build - \$30,345
- Omineca Ski Club Maintenance Equipment - \$3,295
- Lakes District Museum Society Tech Upgrade - \$5,861
- Lakes District Film Appreciation Society New Projector - \$22,925
- Burns Lake Legion New pipe system - \$2,000
- Burns Lake Library Air Purifiers - \$2,728
- The Link - Furnace Repair Food Bank Furnace Repair - \$418."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson returned at 1:15 p.m.

Regional Grant in Aid from Moved by Director Moon
Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Seconded by Director Moutray
Rural)

2024-18-27

"That the Board approve allocating up to \$35,000 in Regional Grant in Aid from Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) to the Cluculz Lake Community Hall for a generator project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

RDBN ESS Service Agreements Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-28

"That the Board end the eight existing Emergency Support Services service agreements from 2018/2019 with the District of Fort St. James, District of Vanderhoof, Village of Fraser Lake, Village of Burns Lake, Village of Granisle, District of Houston, Village of Telkwa, and Town of Smithers.

Further, that the Board approve the four new Emergency Support Services Service Agreements with the Town of Smithers, Village of Burns Lake, District of Vanderhoof, and District of Fort St. James."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Christopher Walker, Emergency Services Manager provided an overview and recognized Matt Herzog, Director of Emergency Support Services, Town of Smithers for the Bulkley Emergency Support Services Program and how a larger municipality can serve a wider area of the region through funding, support and training. They have also developed a well-established junior program for Ages 16-18.

RBA 2025 Draft Budget Proposal

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-18-29

"That the Board receive the Chief Administrative Officer's RBA 2025 Draft Budget Proposal."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Budget Process 2025

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Brien

2024-18-30

"That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Budget Process 2025 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will bring forward a detailed outline of capital project costing at the January 23, 2025 Board meeting and scheduling will take place for individual budget meetings for Directors in February 2025.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Northern BC Supply Chain Forum – Working Group Workshop Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Moon

2024-18-31 “That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Northern BC Supply Chain Forum – Working Group Workshop memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Items to be brought Forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-18-32 “That the Board receive Items to be forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Pipeline Referral

Pacific Trail Pipeline Sections 1 and 2 Permit Extension Notification Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Moon

2024-18-33 1. “That staff be directed to inform Enbridge that the Board’s January 26, 2018 letter remains valid and contains the RDBN’s comments in regards to Pacific Trails Pipeline Project permit extension application notification.

2. Further, that staff be directed to respond to any future permit extension application notifications for the Pacific Trails Pipeline Project by informing Enbridge that the Board’s January 26, 2018 letter remains valid and contains the RDBN’s comments regarding these notifications.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA (CONT'D)

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Canada Community Building Fund Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) – Wiring for New Bay Doors at Fort Fraser Fire Hall Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-18-34

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$3,645 of Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Fire Hall Infrastructure project at the Fort Fraser Fire Hall, and

(participants/weighted/majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$3,645 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2024-18-35

"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 technology improvements."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire noted the following:

- Municipal office has moved to its new location
- Potential expansion of its library and/or other services
- Successful Light up in the Park Event
 - o Individuals purchase a tree to light up in memory of a loved one
- Seniors Housing Project
 - o Roof trusses have arrived and will be installed.

District of Vanderhoof-Update Director Moutray provided an update:

- Met and had a good meeting with the Minister of Forests in Vanderhoof November 21, 2024
- Attended a very good Parade of Lights and Merry Madness celebrations on December 7, 2024.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area G (Houston/ Rural) – Update

Director Newell spoke of the following:

- Enjoyed the Houston Light Up and fireworks
 - o Great neighbourhood event
- Expressed concerns regarding the Canada Post Strike and impact to those individuals on social and disability assistance – may not be receiving funds
 - o Identified the need to keep an eye out for one's neighbours.

Village of Burns Lake – Update

Director Wiebe provided an update:

- Completed the Richmond Loop Intersection
- Developer interest in the lots for sale on Richmond Loop
- CityWest has started connecting commercial businesses and 80 residents to their connectivity fibre
- Gowan Road Development
 - o Concept plan complete and preparing presentation for partners
- Village Heights
- The roof has been installed on the new Foundry building.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update

Director Greenaway noted the following:

- North Central Local Government Association Update
 - o Mental Health and Addictions Symposium in Prince George, November 13 & 14, 2024
 - NCLGA Executive Director working to obtain the content of the Symposium with a projected released date of February 2025
 - o Forest Enhancement Society of BC will be presenting to the NCLGA Board meeting to speak on wood-based energy and community forest top ups
 - o NCLGA in discussions with Keeping it Rural Conference regarding the potential to host the conference in northern BC
 - o Planning for the NCLGA AGM and Conference in Prince Rupert May 12 – 15, 2025
- Submitted a Christmas Tree in the Festival of Trees on behalf of the RDBN Electoral Area C that raised \$160 in a fundraising event for school students to travel to Haida Gwaii
- Fort St. James Curling Rink has imbedded the RDBN logo in its ice surface in recognition of the support received from the RDBN.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- District of Houston – Update Director Brienen mentioned:
- Attended the meeting in Vanderhoof on November 21st with the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests along with Directors Moutray and Storey. District of Vanderhoof Councilors Brian Frenkel and David Van Dolah were also in attendance. Those in attendance provided an explanation to the Minister regarding the challenges communities have experienced in the forest sector. A subsequent meeting was requested during the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George January 14-16, 2025.
 - Houston Annual Christmas Light Up
 - o This is the 36th anniversary
 - o Community effort
 - o Incredible turnout.

- Town of Smithers – Update Director Atrill provided an update regarding:
- Announcement of Alle Jan de Vries as Chief for the Smithers Fire Rescue Service
 - Expressed appreciation for the recognition of the dedication by Matt Herzog, Director of Emergency Support Services, Town of Smithers
 - Taking part in the new Childcare Spaces Program
 - o Embarking and investigating the possible use of park space to increase childcare services to address the need in the community
 - Dze L Kant Friendship Centre Society Housing Project underway
 - Smithers Curling Club
 - o Thanked Director Stoltenberg and Northern Development Initiative Trust for grant funding to complete upgrades at the Smithers Curling Club
 - Cycle 16 Trail Connector
 - Coffee Chats – great way to connect with people in the community
 - RBA funding allocations for projects within the community
 - Christmas in the Valley -November 29-30
 - Truck Parade – December 21
 - Hudson Bay Mountain Ski Hill is open.

- District of Fort St. James -Update Director Elphee mentioned the:
- Santa Clause Parade and Moonlight Madness Event
 - o Best Parade in a number of years
 - Tour of the new hospital in Fort St. James scheduled for Council next week
 - Presented Past Mayor Rob MacDougall a key to the community for his 18 years of service.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update Director Moon provided an update:
- Top Hay approached her to discuss a commercial greenhouse and hay drying facility
 - Attended the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed Workshop in Prince George, November 29, 2024
 - o Presentation by Dr. Stephen Déry, UNBC Hydrologist
 - Attending interagency meetings regarding a warming shelter in Vanderhoof
 - Attended meetings with local cattlemen to discuss challenges with the lack of consultation from BC Hydro regarding hydro transmission line project planned for the region
 - Attending District of Vanderhoof Sawmill Shutdown meetings
 - Grant in aid submissions
 - o Indigenous Women’s Leaders Group through Nechako Valley Secondary School
 - o Vanderhoof Curling Club
 - o Vanderhoof Children’s Theater
 - Attended the Parade of Lights
 - o A number of Agriculture and BC Livestock participants
 - Met with Director Greenaway, Chair, SNRHD and Northern Health regarding Primary Care in Vanderhoof.
- Village of Telkwa – Update Director Dekens provided an update regarding a tender issued for a well project for the community.
- Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update Director Riis-Christianson noted:
- Opportunity to take in the Village of Burns Lake Christmas Light Up Event
 - o Director Wiebe indicated that there were 47 floats
 - Exploring the possibility for a request for street lighting
 - Participating on the Village of Burns Lake Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals Committee.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Village of Fraser Lake – Update Director Storey provided the following update;

- Nithi Mountain Wind Project
- Lack of housing and accommodation in the community
- Step one of community Rebranding Project complete
- Impacts from the Canada Post Strike
- Attended the meeting with the Minister of Forests in Vanderhoof
- Attended the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Nechako Watershed Workshop in Prince George, November 29, 2024
- 2024/2025 Objectives
 - o Building infrastructure for the future
- Attended a Seniors Aging in Place Round Table.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker commented:

- Attended the Seniors Aging in Place Round Table in Fraser Lake
- In contact with the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food
 - o Regarding new funding announced December 12, 2024 for the advancement of veterinarian programs to rural B.C.
 - o Minister Popham indicated she will be travelling to the north in the spring of 2025
- Participating on the EDMA Regulations Committee
- Attended the Christmas Parades in Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof
- Attended the Fort Fraser Local Community Commission meeting and lunch at the RDBN on December 9th.

The Board expressed appreciation for the work conducted by staff in 2024 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-18-36

“That the Board receive the various Directors verbal reports.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Letter to Drax Re: Wildfire Wood Salvage

Director Lambert spoke of writing a letter to Drax outlining the importance of salvaging wood decked on the forest landscape from wildfires for the health of the forest and future wildfire mitigation. Discussion took place regarding policies by international companies in regard to forest management.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter to Drax Re: Wildfire
Wood Salvage

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-18-37

"That the Board write a letter to Drax – Burns Lake outlining the Board's concerns regarding the lack of salvage of wood harvested and left on the forest floor during wildfires based on old growth management areas and provide an outline of Drax's policy regarding old growth management augmas; and that the letter encourage Drax – Burns Lake to utilize the wood for its pellet plant operations; and further that the letter be sent to Drax Head Office and the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-18-38

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

- Labour Relations.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-18-39

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:17 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services