

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 2025

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Shirley Moon
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services

Others Shane Brienen, District of Houston – via Zoom
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Dalphena Snively, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

CALL TO ORDER Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RSC.2025-1-1 “That the Rural Services Committee Agenda for January 9, 2025 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
-November 7, 2024 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

RSC.2025-1-2 “That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of November 7, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Letter to Minister Farnworth Moved by Director Greenaway
-Infrastructure Improvements Seconded by Director Parker
to 700 Rd. in Electoral Areas
B and E of the RDBN

RSC.2025-1-3 "That the Committee recommend that the Board approve sending the January 9, 2025 letter to the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit regarding Request to Support Legacy Infrastructure Replacement."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid Policy Update Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RSC.2025-1-4 "That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the changes to the Grant in Aid policy to reflect changes in the program administration."

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

RSC.2025-1-5 "That Motion RSC.2025-1-4 include amending the Grant in Aid policy **Procedure 1** as follows:
The Board delegates the authority to approve grant in aid applications of \$5,000 or less to the Chief Administrative Officer or designate in consultation with the Electoral Area Director. Applications in excess of \$5,000 will be referred to the Board."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

"That the question be called on Motion RSC.2025-1-4 as amended."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid Under \$2,500 Moved by Director Lambert
Approval Update Seconded by Director Moon

RSC.2024-1-6 "That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services Grant in Aid Under \$2,500 Approval Update."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Reply to Intervention to Part 1 Application to Disclose Certain Broadband and Mobile Annual Facilities Survey Data (CRTC File 8000-P114-202404929) Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RSC.2024-1-7

"That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services Reply to interventions to Part 1 Application to disclose certain Broadband and Mobile Annual Facilities Survey data (CRTC File 8000-P114-202404929)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the importance of advocacy. Staff will reschedule CityWest Delegation for a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station

Director Stoltenberg shared his appreciation for work of an employee at the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station.

Future Rural Services Committee Planning

Chair Riis-Christianson indicated that he will provide a survey to the Rural Services Committee Directors to guide the Committee and plan for 2025. The following was discussed:

- 2025 Budget process and Rural Directors scheduling meetings with RDBN Finance staff
- New Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services Position
 - o Structure of Committee
 - o Grant funding focus
 - o Northwest B.C. Regional funding Agreement five-year planning
- Exploring opportunities for the region and electoral areas such as community halls and supports and advocacy for elderly residents in rural areas
- RDBN Strategic Plan and Terms of Reference of the Committee to be included in Rural Service Committee Agendas
- Electoral Area Engagement Sessions
 - o Potential ideas
- Providing education to residents regarding the RDBN
- Municipal and electoral area partnerships and support for services within communities.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RSC.2025-1-8

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:51 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services