

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 3

Thursday, February 27, 2025

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert – left at 1:28 p.m., returned at 1:35 p.m.
Linda McGuire
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg – left at 11:46 a.m., returned at 11:49 a.m.
Henry Wiebe

Directors Shirley Moon, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
Absent Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

Alternate Directors Audrey Fennema, Village of Fraser Lake
Alex Kulchar, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Jason Berlin, Senior Building Inspector – via Zoom – left at 11:45 a.m.
Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator – returned from lunch at 12:59 p.m., left at 2:06 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – left at 11:30 a.m., returned at 1:12 p.m., left at 1:32 p.m.
Steve Davis, Building Inspector – left at 11:45 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – arrived at 11:14 a.m., left at 1:36 p.m., returned at 1:56 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 12:45 p.m.
Maria Sandberg, Planning and Parks Coordinator – arrived at 12:50 p.m., left at 12:54 p.m.
Harpinder Singh, Accounting Clerk – left at 11:13 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Christopher Walker, Emergency Services Manager – arrived at 1:10 p.m., left at 1:34 p.m.
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services

Others Joelle Barfoot, Project Procurement Manager, CityWest – via Zoom – left at 11:50 a.m.
Wes Eisses, Vice President of Projects, CityWest– via Zoom – left at 11:50 a.m.
Tamara Gillis, Smithers – left at 11:52 a.m., returned at 1:37 p.m., left at 1:38 p.m.
Michael Tabert, Smithers – left at 11:45 a.m.
Stefan Woloszyn, Chief Executive Officer, CityWest– via Zoom – left at 11:50 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA &

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Seconded by Alternate Director Kulchar

2025-3-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of February 27, 2025 be approved as amended; and that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-February 13, 2025

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Brien

2025-3-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2025 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
-February 13, 2025

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Lambert

2025-3-3

“That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2025 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF INTRODUCTION

Chair Parker introduced Harpinder Singh, Accounting Clerk.

DELEGATION

CITYWEST – Stefan Woloszyn, Chief Executive Officer, Wes Eisses, Vice President of Projects and Joelle Barfoot, Project Procurement Manager Re: Project Update

Chair Parker welcomed Stefan Woloszyn, Chief Executive Officer, Wes Eisses, Vice President of Projects and Joelle Barfoot, Project Procurement Manager, CityWest.

CityWest Update

- Fibre to the Home Community Partnership
 - o Building Infrastructure for a Connected Future
- Connecting Smithers – Upper Viewmount
- Connecting Cluculz Lake
- Connecting Fort St. James
- Connecting Burns Lake – ERI (NDIT - Economic Recovery Intake Fund)
- Connecting Burns Lake & Francois Lake – UBF (Universal Broadband Fund)

The following was discussed:

- RDBN contributions to projects
- Burns Lake & Francois Lake
 - o Gerow Island, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) within the footprint of the ERI program and planning is underway
 - o Timeline for connection
 - CityWest is working with the pole owner to receive permitting with no current estimated time of connection
- Economic impacts to delayed projects and erosion of opportunities over time
- Working harder to outline product benefits
- Capacity considerations
 - o CityWest's growth over the last number years
 - o Matching capacity to projects
- Connectivity build costs to the home
 - o Federal and provincial government connectivity mandates
- Pending tariffs.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Woloszyn and Eisses and Ms. Barfoot for attending the meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTION

Section 57 Notice on Title,
5264 Raceway Road,
Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural)

The property owner provided the following comments:

- He hired a reputable builder and he understood the builder would submit the appropriate paperwork.
- He is working on getting pictures of the footings from his Builder.
- He has not signed the building permit application because he does not adequately understand the implications.
- He requests additional time be granted to get a building permit.
- Someone complained about an illegal small portable sawmill on the property. He spoke with neighbours and no one said they complained.
- The sawmill provides a supplemental income through COVID and to his logging business, and operated in 2024 for 271 hours, and it only runs after hours and/or weekends.
- He has paid for a building permit.

Discussion took place regarding the impacts of delaying the Notice on Title if there is a potential sale of the property and the risk to the new owner if there is no knowledge of the current issues. A Notice on Title may be removed by a property owner if issues are resolved for a \$200 fee. Staff indicated the preference is that the property owner hire an engineer to confirm that the building, including the foundation, is built to code. Photographs on the construction may be accepted by the Building Inspectors in some instances. Exposing the construction to inspection is also an option. There was discussion regarding the options of deferring consideration of the report or direction staff to register the notice on title if a building permit has not been issued by a certain date.

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-3-4

"That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the *Community Charter* relating to land legally described as Lot B, Section 27, Township 1A, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP26255 (5264 Raceway Road)."

BUILDING INSPECTION (CONT'D)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2025-3-5

"That the Board amend Motion 2025-3-4 to include that the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office if a building permit has not been issued by March 27, 2025."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

That the question be called on Motion 2025-3-4 as amended."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Land Referral

Crown Land Application
Referral No. 7410357
Electoral Area C (Fort St.
James Rural).

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Alternate Director Kulchar

2025-3-6

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410357."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Application
Referral No. 6409526
Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake
Rural), E (Francois/Ootsa Lake
Rural), and G (Houston/Granisle
Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Newell

2025-3-7

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No. 6409526."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Ministry of Transportation
and Transit Letter - Highway
16 and 27 Intersection
Improvements

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Atrill

2025-3-8

"That the Board receive the Ministry of Transportation and Transit letter regarding Highway 16 and 27 Intersection Improvements.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B.C. Fast Tracking 18
Resource Projects to Reduce
Reliance on United States

Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2025-3-9

"That the Board receive the correspondence regarding B.C. Fast Tracking 18 Resource Projects to Reduce Reliance on United States."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Conversation took place regarding:

- Uncertainty moving forward regarding which projects will move forward without an EA Process, and which projects will be subject to a fast tracked or otherwise amended EA Process.
- Province has announced that wind farm projects won't require an EA Process. This may require changes to the *Environmental Assessment Act*
- Concerns were raised regarding consideration of social, environmental and infrastructure issues and the ability of First Nations and local government to engage with the Province on those issues.
- The RDBN Zoning Bylaw regulates wind farm where zoning is in place; however, windfarms on Crown land may not be subject to local government zoning.
- The BC Energy Regulator will oversee the permitting of windfarms
- Writing a letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier and the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions acknowledging the need to moving resource projects forward utilizing a process which allows local governments and First Nations to provide appropriate input.

Other (Cont'd)

Letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier and the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2025-3-10

"That the Board write a letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier and the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solution acknowledging the need to moving resource projects forward utilizing a process which allows local governments and First Nations to provide appropriate input."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 11:58 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks and Trails Service Work Plan

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-3-11

"That the Board receive the Planning and Parks Coordinator's Parks and Trails Service Work Plan memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Harrop Procter Ferry Committee Society - Request For Resolution re: Essential Service Levels of Inland Ferries

Discussion took place regarding options of submitting a resolution to NCLGA or writing a letter to the Regional District of Central Kootenay in support of a resolution regarding the Essential Service Levels of Inland Ferries. The Board also discussed directing staff to contact the RDCK to determine if they would consider including the RDBN when they submit their resolution. Staff will bring forward a response from RDCK and/or a draft resolution for Board consideration for submission to NCLGA at the March 13th Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Resolution – Twinning of
Highway 16

Moved by Director Elphee
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-3-12

“That the Twinning of Highway 16 resolution be submitted to the North Central Local Government Association for consideration at its upcoming AGM and Convention.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Nechako Watershed
Roundtable Resolution for
Consideration

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-3-13

“That the Board co-sponsor the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George’s Local Watershed Governance Organizations and Biodiverse Climate Resilient Ecosystems resolutions at the NCLGA AGM & Convention and UBCM Convention.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Burns Lake and Area Victims’
Services

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2025-3-14

“That the Burns Lake and Area Victims’ Services Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2059, 2025 be adopted this 27th day of February 2025.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Smithers Rural Fire Protection
Service Area Boundary
Amendment Bylaw
No. 2068, 2025

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2025-3-15

“That Smithers Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2068, 2025 be adopted this 27th day of February, 2025.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Smithers Rural Recreation
and Culture Service Area
Boundary Amendment Bylaw
No. 2069, 2025

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

2025-3-16

"That Smithers Rural Recreation and Culture Service Area
Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2069, 2025 be adopted this
27th day of February, 2025."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2025 Budget

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Atrill

2025-3-17

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial
Plan Bylaw No. 2070, 2025 be given second reading as
amended this 27th day of February, 2025."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Lake Kathlyn Parcel Tax
 - Awaiting a meeting with the Lake Kathlyn
Protection Society
- Smithers Airport
 - Staff have reached out to schedule a meeting
- Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) and D (Fraser Lake
Rural) grant in lieu of taxes and Environmental
Services budget.

Community Works Fund (CWF)
for District of Vanderhoof
-Pump Track Project

Moved by Alternate Director Kulchar
Seconded by Director Moutray

2025-3-18

1. "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$130,000 in
Canada Community Building Fund BC monies from Area F
(Vanderhoof Rural) to the District of Vanderhoof for a
Recreation Infrastructure project and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$130,000
from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Community Works Fund (CWF) Moved by Director Greenaway
for Luck Bay Fire Hall Seconded by Director Elphee
Generator

2025-3-19

1. "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$11,000 in Canada Community Building Fund BC monies from Area C (Fort St. James Rural) to a Fire Hall Infrastructure project at the Luck Bay Fire Hall and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$11,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community Works Fund (CWF) Moved by Director Newell
for Topley Fire Hall Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson
Generator

2025-3-20

1. "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$16,000 in Canada Community Building Fund BC, \$12,800 from Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) and \$3,200 from Area B (Burns Lake Rural), to a Fire Hall Infrastructure project at the Topley Fire Hall and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$16,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Program to Enhance Rail
Safety Engagement Final
Report Moved by Director Wiebe
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-3-21

"That the Board receive the Emergency Services Manager's Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement Final Report memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Staff are reviewing the recommendations and determining capacity and scope of work. Discussion took place regarding:

- Utilizing the report for advocacy with higher levels of government regarding rail safety in the region
- 40% of rail tracks are located within fire protection areas and 60% outside fire protection areas
- CN response times in the event of an emergency
- Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment ranked rail safety as fourth out of all hazards
- RDBN role to protect its residents
- Sharing the report with other local governments and agencies
- MP Bachrach provided a letter of support for the RDBN grant application to complete the report
- Future resource development in relation to increased rail activity and ensuring the safety of communities in the region.

Electoral Area Directors’
Forum – Electoral Area
Perspectives on RD
Legislative Reform

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2025-3-22

“That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services’ Electoral Area Directors’ Forum – Electoral Area Perspectives on RD Legislative Reform memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Forests - Pest
Management Plan
Consultation Period

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Alternate Director Kulchar

2025-3-23

“That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s Ministry of Forests – Pest Management Plan Consultation Period memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

RDBN Gathering for Food
-Producer, Non-Profit
Organizations

Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Lambert

2025-3-24

"That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture
Coordinator's RDBN Gathering for Food-Producer, Non-Profit
Organizations memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire provided the following update:

- Granisle Seniors Housing Road Map
 - o Completion is planned for August 2025 with occupancy in the fall of 2025
- 2025 Budget process and the benefits of factoring in the RBA funding agreement
- Future resource projects in the region and benefits to future RBA negotiations
- Less ice huts on Babine Lake this winter in comparison to past winters due to the weather.

Village of Burns Lake – Update

Director Wiebe mentioned:

- Two new physicians arriving in the community in the spring
- Nurse Practitioner transitioned to a management position
- Village of Burns Lake Recruitment and Retention Committee has hired an individual
- Village Heights Project – awaiting grant funding for the installation of services to the gate.

Village of Telkwa – Update

Director Dekens spoke of the following:

- Water system improvements beginning next week to increase water supply by 30% for subdivisions awaiting development
- 2025 Budget discussions.

Electoral Area E (Francois/
Ootsa Lake Rural) – Update

Director Lambert provided the following update:

- Meeting with Skin Tyee Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation and Nee Tahi Buhn Band on February 25th
- Meeting with Daryl Petsul, Senior Operations Officer (Interim) and Michael Hoefler, Executive Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Operations and Logistics, Northern Health to discuss a helipad. The Southside Health and Wellness Centre Society approved in principle a helipad project.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

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

Director Greenaway noted the following:

- Provided grant funding to the Fort St. James Curling Club and they have included the RDBN logo on their ice surface
- Attended the FPX Nickel Open House regarding the Baptiste Nickel Project
 - Wood Canada Ltd. conducted a study and developed a business case for a stand-alone Nickel refinery from the Baptiste Nickel Project for northern B.C.
 - Ammonium sulphate byproduct from nickel – good fertilizer
- Attended the Electoral Area Directors Forum February 6-7, 2025 in Richmond, BC and the following was reviewed:
 - Canada Community Building Fund BC
 - Other local governments administer the funds in various ways
 - Impacts of non-profits requiring Asset Management Plans
 - Five-year fund allocation deadlines – local governments may request extensions
 - The federal government is wanting better data collection
 - Disaster Financial Assistance
 - Three teams
 - Provincial Recovery Team
 - Advanced Recovery Team –connect with other programs
 - Community Recovery Team – support moving through recovery stage
 - Next Generation 9-1-1
 - Telus sole provider
 - Including a line for mental health
 - Concerning funding due to the significant decrease in landlines.

Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill gave tribute to Alice Maitland. Ms. Maitland spent 42 years as mayor for the Village of Hazelton and 47 years in local government. She had a love of community and championed a path for women in local government. Ms. Maitland will be remembered for being friendly, having a ready smile and the ability to speak truth to power. Director Brienen mentioned that Ms. Maitland had encouraged the RBA to host the celebration in her community when they were successful in reaching an agreement with the province. Director Riis-Christianson spoke of remembering her tenacity in bringing her community's concerns forward to the province.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) - Update Alternate Director Kulchar mentioned that Director Moon attended a meeting with the Nechako Valley Exhibition Society and the Vanderhoof Fall Fair is being moved to the August 8-10th weekend.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) – Update Director Stoltenberg reported that there is an Open House being held at the Round Lake Hall on March 5th.

District of Vanderhof – Update Director Moutray commented:
- 2025 Budget process – RBA agreement is helpful but a significant infrastructure deficit remains
- Travelling to Victoria for advocacy with Ministers.

District of Fort St. James -Update Director Elphee spoke of the following:
- Met with Cindy Heitman, President of the College of New Caledonia regarding the rotation of a mechanical trades program in the region
- Food Cycler Program supported by Area C is 50% sold.

District of Fraser Lake -Update Alternate Director Fennema mentioned:
- Upcoming full day session to review the 2025 Budget
- Family Day Event had a great turnout
 o The Fraser Lake Museum and Library co-hosted an event as well.

Chair Parker – Update Chair Parker provided the following update:
- First Nations Engagement meetings are going well
 o Follow up meeting moving forward
- Living Lakes – Francois Lake Shoreline Meeting kick off took place with Director Lambert also attending
- Follow up call from Debra Lamash, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, BC Hydro regarding the twinning of the hydro line and transmission expansion.
 o Working group in Vanderhoof
 o BC Hydro working towards solutions
- Northern Development Initiative Trust Meetings this week.

Receipt of Verbal Reports Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Alternate Director Kulchar

2025-3-25 “That the Board receive the various Directors verbal reports.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Support
Town of Smithers
Bid to Host Minerals
North 2026

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2025-3-26

"That the Board write a letter of support to the Town of Smithers for its bid to Host Minerals North 2026."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Upper Fraser Fisheries
Conservation Alliance
-Endako Weir Project

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Moutray

2025-3-27

"That the Board invite the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance to a future Board meeting to provide an Endako Weir Project Update."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2025-3-28

"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
- Boundary Extension
- RBA."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Brienens

2025-3-29

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:07 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services