

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 8 (VIA ZOOM)

Thursday, July 13, 2023

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill Shane Brienen Leroy Dekens – arrived at 10:30 a.m. Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg
	Directors Absent	Clint Lambert, Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake
	Alternate Directors	Audrey Fennema, Village of Fraser Lake Charlie Rensby, Village of Burns Lake
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 10:46 a.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
	Others	Isobel Mackenzie, Seniors Advocate, Office of the Seniors Advocate BC – left at 10:30 a.m. Brad Miller – left at 10:58 am
	Media	Saddman, LD News – arrived at 10:35 am

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA** Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-8-1 “That the Board Meeting Agenda of July 13, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-8-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Solid Waste Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
-June 20, 2023

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-8-3

"That the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023 be received.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

OFFICE OF THE SENIORS ADVOCATE BC – Isobel Mackenzie, Seniors Advocate RE: Seniors Issues

Chair Parker welcomed Isobel Mackenzie, Seniors Advocate, Office of the Seniors Advocate BC.

Ms. Mackenzie provided a presentation.

Current Issues for B.C. Seniors

- Snapshot of B.C. Seniors
 - o Northern Health 15% of the population is 65 years and older
 - o Age in home
- Alternate Level of Care (ALC)
 - o 19 day provincial avg. length of stay for 65+
 - o Northern Health: 73 days avg. length of stay for 65+
 - o 17% ALC days as a percent of total inpatient days
 - Northern Health: 36% ALC days as a percent of total inpatient days
- Access to Assisted Living
 - o Long-term care beds and assisted living facilities limited
 - o Publicly funded home support services are limited
 - o Affordability issue for renters
 - o Lack of alternative housing for seniors downsizing
- Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention resolutions to consider
 - o Housing Program for Renters
 - Asking the provincial government to change the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program to provide a rent subsidy that relates to market rates

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

OFFICE OF THE SENIORS ADVOCATE BC – Isobel Mackenzie, Seniors Advocate RE: Seniors Issues (Cont'd)

- Waive Home Support Co-payment Fee
 - Some provinces cover the full cost of home support
- Cost of Home Support
 - Amount paid is based on income
 - Province funds home support if the Provincial Guaranteed Income Supplement for a senior is less than \$25,000
 - Income above \$25,000 - 1 hour a day of home support requires individuals to pay a fee of \$9,000 per year
 - BC has a higher percentage of seniors in long-term care with low care needs than other provinces
 - Northern Health is higher than the provincial average
- Premature Admission to Long-Term Care
 - 61% of B.C. seniors admitted to a long-term care facility received no home support 90 days prior to admission
- Access to Long-Term Care
- Challenges for Northern Communities/rural BC
 - Transportation
 - Access to primary care
 - Housing
 - Availability for housing for seniors wanting to sell their homes and purchase a senior based home
 - Isolation
 - Financial supports
 - Issue for Northern Health
 - Cost of new long-term care bed.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Home support co-payment fee in B.C. vs. other provinces
- Advocacy for elimination or reduction of the cost to seniors for minimum home support co-payment fee
- Wait times and costs for long-term care increasing.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Mackenzie for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaws for Adoption

Rezoning Application RDBN Moved by Director Atrill
04-21, Adoption Report, Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
Bylaws 1996-1999, 2023
Electoral Areas A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural), B (Burns Lake
Rural), G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2023-8-4 "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023 be adopted this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rezoning Application RZ Moved by Director Stoltenberg
A-01-23 Adoption Report, Seconded by Director Dekens
Bylaw 2004, 2023 Electoral
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2023-8-5 "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2004, 2023 be adopted this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Temporary Use Permit

Temporary Use Permit Moved by Director Greenaway
C-01-23 – Electoral Area C Seconded by Director Elphee
(Fort St. James Rural)

- 2023-8-6
1. "That the Board approve the issuance of Temporary Use Permit C-01-23 to allow a portable asphalt plant at 2640 Spencer Pit Road.
 2. That the Board direct staff to issue the permit when staff have received a copy of an approved Industrial Access Highway Use Permit for the proposed portable asphalt plant from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Items

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
Electoral Area C (Fort St.
James Rural) – June 7, 2023

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Brienens

2023-8-7

“That the Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Advisory
Planning Commission Minutes for June 7, 2023 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof
Rural)– June 13, 2023

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-8-8

“That the Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Advisory
Planning Commission Minutes for June 13, 2023 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALR Application

ALR Application 1256
Non-Farm Use (Removal
of Soil) – Electoral Area
F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-8-9

1. “That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1256 be
recommended to the Agricultural Commission for approval
and that the ALC ensure appropriate remediation throughout
the life of the gravel pit.

2. That the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of
Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation be requested to
ensure that an adequate dust mitigation plan is in place to
address concerns about the impact of dust on adjacent
residents and farming operations.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mines Referral

Notice of Work Referral
No. 1650460 – Electoral Area Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-8-10 “That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the
Regional District’s comments on Notice of Work No.
1650460.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Atrill mentioned inviting Northern Structural Moving
Ltd to a future meeting as a delegation.

REGIONAL TRANSIT

Transit Service Amendment
Bylaw 2011– Electoral Area
B (Burns Lake Rural) Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Moutray

2023-8-11 “That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public
Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment
Amendment Bylaw No. 2011, 2023 to include Electoral Area B
(Burns Lake Rural) be given first and second reading this 13th
day of July, 2023.”

(All/Participants/Two-Thirds) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Transit Service Amendment
Bylaw 2012– Electoral Area
C (Fort St. James Rural) Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-8-12 “That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public
Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment
Amendment Bylaw No. 2012, 2023 to include Electoral Area C
(Fort St. James Rural) be given first and second reading this
13th day of July, 2023.”

(All/Participants/Two-Thirds) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REGIONAL TRANSIT (CONT'D)

Transit Service Amendment
Bylaw 2013- Electoral Area
D (Fraser Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-8-13

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2013, 2023 to include Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) be given first and second reading this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Participants/Two-Thirds) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Transit Service Amendment
Bylaw 2015- Electoral Area
F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-8-14

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2015, 2023 to include Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) be given first and second reading this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Participants/Two-Thirds) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Transit Service Amendment
Bylaw 2016- Electoral Area
G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-8-15

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2016, 2023 to include Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) be given first and second reading this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Participants/Two-Thirds) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Transit Service Amendment
Bylaw 2017 - Requisition
Amendment

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-8-16

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2017, 2023 to amend the requisition and cost recovery formula be given first and second reading this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Participants/Two-Thirds) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Draft Parks and Trails Bylaw Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-8-17 "That the Board receive the Draft Parks and Trails Bylaw."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Fort Fraser 2023 Capital Plan and Budget Update Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-8-18 "That the Board approve the increase of the 2023 Fort Fraser Capital Budget from \$162,000 to \$275,000 and that the increase in funds from this project be withdrawn from the Gas Tax Reserve."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RSWAC June 20th Meeting Summary Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-8-19 "That the Board receive the Waste Diversion Supervisor's RSWAC June 20th Meeting Summary memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wood Waste Diversion Summary Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-8-20 "That the Board receive the Waste Diversion Supervisor's Wood Waste Diversion Update 2023 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention – Provincial Government Staff Meetings The Board requested the following Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention – Provincial Government Staff Meetings:

- BC Emergency Health Services - BC Ambulance
 - o Community Paramedic Program
- Northern Health
 - o Seniors Advocate.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2008, 2023 Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-8-21

"That Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2008 be given first, second, and third reading this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project Award for RFP #RDBN-Fire-23-01 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Alternate Director Rensby

2023-8-22

"That the Board award the supply and installation of a 10,000-gallon underground water tank located at both the Topley Fire Hall and the Round Lake Community Hall to Groot Bros Construction Ltd for a total cost of \$315,364 plus applicable taxes."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Area F Recreation and Culture Bylaw Amendment Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-8-23

"That Electoral Area F Recreation and Culture Contribution Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 2018, 2023 be given first, second and third reading this 13th day of July, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Benefits for Alternate Municipal Directors Moved by Alternate Director Rensby
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-8-24

"That Extended Health and Dental Benefits be provided to alternate municipal directors that spend more than 20 hours per week doing elected official duties with an effective date of October 1, 2023, and that the costs associated with these benefits be reimbursed by the member municipalities."

Opposed: Director Elphee CARRIED
Director Greenaway

(All/Directors/Majority)

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Chinook Community Society Bylaw Update Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-8-25 "That the Board, as one of the two members of the Chinook Community Society, recommend to the Society's Board that the Bylaws of Chinook Community Society be updated as recommended."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Local Government Climate Action Plan Survey Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-8-26 "That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Local Government Climate Action Plan Survey memorandum on the Board and Supplementary Agenda."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Departmental Quarterly Reports – 2nd Quarter Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-8-27 "That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Departmental Quarterly Reports – 2nd Quarter memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Canada Community-Building Fund BC Compliance Recommendations Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Length of time it takes to save a sufficient amount of funds to complete large projects e.g. connectivity
- Funds meant to address infrastructure needs within the Regional District –Electoral Area Directors designating funds towards infrastructure needs within their specific electoral area
- Past RDBN reporting to the province indicated funds will be allocated to project(s) by March 31, 2024
- Researching the utilization of funding for Primary Care Capital expenses
- Timelines for projects can be lengthy.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

BC Cattlemen's Association Moved by Director Dekens
-Economic Impact Study on Seconded by Director Greenaway
Veterinary Medicine in BC

2023-8-28 "That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the BC Cattlemen's Association regarding Economic Impact Study on Veterinary Medicine in BC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Fraser Lake Alternate Director Fennema noted that the Village of Fraser
-Update Lake has been providing messaging to its residents to be prepared if the wildfire event deteriorates. She noted air quality is a concern.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Director Moon provided the following update:
Rural) – Update - Challenges concerning the lack of feed for livestock
 - Moving livestock at the issuance of Evacuation Alerts
 - Challenges with evacuation alerts being large geographical areas
 - Farms unable to take additional livestock due to the lack of feed.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/ Director Stoltenberg gave an overview regarding the Power
Telkwa Rural) – Update Creek Wildfire event and that it is improving.

Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire provided the following update:
 - Granisle Marina
 o New docks have been installed and breakwater is complete
 o Additional works continue to complete the project
 - Dave Birdie has been hired as Chief Administrative Officer
 - Real estate in the community continues to sell.

Town of Smithers – Update Director Atrill mentioned the following:
 - Challenges continue with homelessness
 o Addressing proposal from BC Housing to purchase a local hotel
 - Reviewing Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw
 - Funding secured to link the Cycle 16 Trail from Bulkley Valley Fair Grounds
 - Smithers was featured on the Amazing Race Canada.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

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

Director Greenaway spoke of the following:

- Primary Health Care Annual General Meeting
- Volunteering in the Clean Air Facility
- Harm Reduction Meeting
 - o sharps container locations in the community
- Zamboni purchased utilizing Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Federal Gas Tax has arrived in the community.

District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee provided the following update:

- Mayor and Council met with Nak'azdli Whut'en regarding future projects and have set a date for a future meeting
- Fort St. James Community Splash Park opened July 10th
- EOC Training taking place currently in collaboration with Nak'azdli Whut'en
- Potential wildfire impacts to Highway 27 and secondary routes.

District of Houston – Update

Director Brienens expressed concerns regarding the growth of the Peacock Creek Wildfire and the current impact to the community. Director Newell spoke of challenges with the Electoral Area Order Access Permit Pass process.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)-Update

Director Riis-Christianson spoke of the proximity of the Tintagel Wildfire to homes and infrastructure in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural).

District of Vanderhoof

Director Moutray provided the following update:

- Davidson Mountain fire intensified
- Expressed concerns regarding wildfire impacts to economic development in the region
- Meeting with Minister Cullen to schedule a meeting with Minister Ma.

EOC Staff Appreciation

The Board expressed their appreciation to the RDBN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and RDBN Staff for the work during the current wildfire event.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker spoke of numerous meetings and media messaging regarding the current wildfire event in the region. He noted that a meeting with Minister Ma will take place this afternoon. Chair Parker also met with Todd Doherty, MP Cariboo-Prince George, Coralee Oakes, MLA Cariboo North, and Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount regarding the wildfires in the region.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Receipt of Verbal
Reports

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-8-29

"That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Alternate Director Fennema

2023-8-30

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

- Committee Appointment
- Labour Relations
- Tenas Coal Project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-8-31

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services