

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 8**

**Thursday, May 23, 2024**

**PRESENT:**

Chair	Mark Parker
Directors	Gladys Atrill Shane Brienen – left at 11:30 a.m., returned at 11:38 a.m., left at 11:55 a.m., returned at 12:57 p.m. Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway – via Zoom – left at 12:42, returned at 12:43 p.m. Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:04 a.m. Linda McGuire Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Sarrah Storey Henry Wiebe
Director Absent	Shirley Moon, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
Alternate Director	Alex Kulchar, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jordan Illes, FireSmart Summer Student – left at 10:02 a.m. Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:22 a.m., left at 11:24 a.m. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – via Zoom – left at 11:55 a.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Others	Ruby Sarkar, Deputy Director, Compliance and Enforcement, Management Plans, Environmental Assessment Office– via Zoom – left at 10:48 a.m. Kelly Wintemute, Executive Project Director, Environmental Assessment Office– via Zoom – arrived at 10:04 a.m., – left at 10:48 a.m. Darren Beaupre, Director, LNG Decarbonization and CCUS, Clean Energy and Major Projects Office, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation– via Zoom– left at 10:48 a.m.

Others (cont'd)

Ron Burlison, Director, Land Use, Planning and Regional Impacts Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs– via Zoom– left at 10:48 a.m.

Hardy Friedrich, Manager, Major Projects, BC Energy Regulator– via Zoom– left at 10:48 a.m.

Garth Thoroughgood, Vice President, Indigenous Relations & Community, BC Energy Regulator – via Zoom– left at 10:48 a.m.

Media

Jeremy Hull, LD News – via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA &**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-8-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda and Supplementary Agenda of May 23, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes  
-May 9, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-8-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2024 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Transit Committee  
Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2024

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-8-3

“That the Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2024 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural/Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-8-4

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2024 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Staff Introduction** Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services introduced Jordan Illes, FireSmart Summer Student.

## **DELEGATION**

### **PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE, MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION, MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND BC ENERGY REGULATOR**

Chair Parker welcomed Ruby Sarkar, Deputy Director, Compliance and Enforcement, Management Plans and Kelly Wintemute, Executive Project Director, Environmental Assessment Office, Darren Beaupre, Director, LNG Decarbonization and CCUS, Clean Energy and Major Projects Office, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation Ron Burlson, Director, Land Use, Planning and Regional Impacts Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Hardy Friedrich, Manager, Major Projects and Garth Thoroughgood, Vice President, Indigenous Relations & Community, BC Energy Regulator.

The following was discussed:

- Lessons learned from the construction of TC Energy's Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project within the RDBN
  - o Varies by community depending on where the community is located in relation to the construction and if work is complete
  - o No formal lessons learned engagement process as of yet
    - Coastal GasLink considering process
  - o Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) guidance documents 10 years old
  - o Internal government collaboration and a number of ministries involved in the SEEMP process which guides how it operates
    - Refining the process and ongoing elements of Coastal GasLink (CGL)
  - o Update of the *Environmental Assessment Act* since the Coastal GasLink Environmental Assessment (EA) process
    - New standard for engagement and consultation with local governments
    - Review of the Act underway
      - Substantial engagement and feedback
      - Use lessons learned for future projects going forward
      - Updating community and health guidelines
- RDBN Involvement with Implementation of the SEEMP
  - o Challenges for local government to raise awareness of topics of value to the region and concerns or issues
    - Deferred to the Environmental Assessment Certificate
    - Lack of fulsome discussion and engagement
    - Regulator issues permits and has indicated the Regional District's concerns are not applicable to the permitting process
    - How can the RDBN through the EA certificate and permitting process have the ability to provide comments?

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

- Ms. Sarkar indicated the need for a more fulsome response and the issue is not isolated to the RDBN
  - Recent EA certificates include wording in the Management Plan that consultation is considered when reviewing Management Plans
    - Working and educating new EA certificate holders to request consultation and comments at the beginning stages of a Plan
- Challenges addressing issues and concerns with the Prime Contractors during the construction phase of the project
  - Changes of Prime Contractors during the construction phase also creates challenges
- How the RDBN can work with industry and the province to better support the pipeline process, mitigate negative impacts associated with pipeline construction and optimize community benefits associated with future pipeline construction projects
  - Opportunities to update the SEEMP guidelines
    - Need to include engagement/consultation with communities
  - Issues and concerns need to be addressed at the beginning stages of the Environmental Assessment process
    - Work camps, waste and social issues
    - RDBN facilitated a public meeting and strongly encouraged Coastal GasLink to attend to address the publics concerns
  - Mr. Burleson commented that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs held periodic engagement sessions with local government staff and First Nations every 6 months throughout the process but due to capacity over the past year that engagement has not taken place
    - Open to a more regularly scheduled engagement by the province and interested in how that can be improved for future pipeline projects
  - RDBN was and continues to be interested in engagement and consultation during the entire Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project
  - Short time frame provided to local governments to provide comments regarding applications to amend Environmental Assessment Certificates and referrals
- Meaningful engagement throughout a project from beginning to end would be beneficial for local governments and the residents in the region
- Traffic issues during construction phase challenging
  - Area Director not included in consultation
  - Ministry of Municipal Affairs endeavored to validate concerns and raise specifically with Coastal GasLink the need for better coordination and manage the impact to communities
  - Existing Forest Service Roads used through different organizations for permitting
- Working through lessons learned
- Coastal GasLink support in the Fraser Lake area

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

- Long-term social impacts of pipeline construction in a region
  - o Responsibility of the province to understand impacts
    - Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and Elected Officials
      - Consultation and coordination required well in advance as well as being actively involved through the process
      - Province directs responsibility to the proponent
        - o What is the process when components of the social consultation is ineffective
      - Local governments left to repair relationships
  - o Concerns regarding the social and economic issues associated with pipeline development
- Request that lessons learned be brought forward to the Board
- Province review of areas it can improve and mindful there is interest for more engagement and to find solutions and pathways moving forward
- Past function of the LNG Secretariat
  - o Provided a solution to address the complexity of the development and construction of the pipeline process and the number of agencies and regulators involved in the process
    - Implementation of a similar function in the future
  - o Mr. Beaupre noted that is an element of lessons learned
    - Providing one location where local governments access the information and contacts they need to gather information
    - Provides ease and access in the engagement of pipeline development
- Proactive engagement and look ahead to determine unintended consequences
- Positive economic development from pipeline development
- Robust consultation and engagement and working together in the future.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Sarkar, Beaupre, Burleson, Friedrich, Thoroughgood and Ms. Wintemute for attending the meeting.

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

### **Bylaw for Adoption**

Rezoning Application  
RZ RDBN 01-24 – Adoption  
of Bylaw

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-8-5

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2039, 2024 be adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (CONT'D)**

**Bylaw for Adoption (Cont'd)**

Rezoning Application RDBN Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
02-21 Adoption of Bylaw Seconded by Director McGuire  
No. 2033 and Bylaw No. 2035

- 2024-8-6
1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2033, 2024 be adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2024.
  2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2035, 2024 be adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Development Variance Permit**

Development Variance Permit Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Application No. A-02-24 Seconded by Director Dekens

- 2024-8-7
1. That the Board approve Development Variance Permit A-02-24 for the property located at 3279 Banff Avenue to vary the following sections of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020:
    - Section 9.0.5.1a) by reducing the minimum setback of a Structure from a Front Parcel Line from 7.5 metres to 4.4 metres for the proposed Single Family Dwelling addition.
    - Section 9.0.5.1c) by reducing the minimum setback of a Structure from any Parcel Line which abuts a Highway from 4.5 metres to 1.7 metres for the existing Single Family Dwelling.
    - Section 9.0.5.1a) by reducing the minimum setback of a Structure from a Front Parcel Line from 7.5 metres to 0.8 metres for the existing garage; and
    - Section 9.0.5.1c) by reducing the minimum setback of a Structure from any Parcel Line which abuts a Highway from 4.5 metres to 1.3 metres for the existing garage.
  2. That the Board direct staff to issue Development Variance Permit A-02-24 once:
    - a copy of an approved setback permit from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the existing Single Family Dwelling and garage is received; and
    - the existing pole shed is either relocated or removed (with a building permit) from the applicable setback area."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**ALR Applications**

ALR Non-Farm Use  
Application 1271  
- Electoral Area A  
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-8-8

"That Agricultural Land Commission Application 1271 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Land Referral**

Crown Land Application  
Referral No. 7409123  
- Electoral Area D  
(Fraser Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-8-9

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7409123."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the application to investigate the suitability of the east route and west route for construction of a transmission line to connect the Nithi Mountain Wind Project to the electrical grid. Chair Parker and Director Storey mentioned meeting with the applicant to discuss an update.

## **Environmental Assessment**

### Coastal GasLink Pipeline Electrification Optionality Amendment

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-8-10

“That the Board direct staff to submit the comment that the RDBN has no objection to the installation of electric-powered compressor units in place of natural gas-powered units for the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline provided that the Socio-economic Effects Management Plan is amended to require consultation with stakeholders, including local governments, during the planning and development of transmission lines and associated infrastructure required to supply power to compressor stations; however, the Regional District has concerns regarding the allocation of power and the decision to exclude the transmission lines from the Environmental Assessment Process and would like those issues addressed as part of the SEEMP review process.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Information not currently available regarding the amount of power required to utilize electric-powered compressor units in place of natural gas-powered units
- Environmental Assessment process regarding new transmission lines
  - Unique application with transmission lines being exempt from the Environmental Assessment process and being determined by the regulatory authority
- Providing comment outlining concerns regarding the allocation of available power to utilize electric powered compressor units and exclusion of the transmission lines from the EA process and that the issues be addressed as part of the SEEMP review.
- UBCM Minister Meeting/Resolution
  - More cohesive Environmental Assessment process.



## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

#### **Land Referral**

Crown Land Application  
Referral No. 6409476  
Electoral Area G (Houston/  
Granisle Rural)

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-8-11

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 6409476."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Purchase of a New Ford F550

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-8-12

"That the Board approve the purchase of a new Ford F550 flat-deck pickup from Hoskins Ford for a total of \$115,700 including PST."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Committee Meeting  
Recommendation  
-May 9, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-8-13

"That the Board approve Committee Meeting Recommendation 1 as written:

#### **Rural/Agriculture Committee – May 9, 2024**

##### **Recommendation 1:**

##### **Re: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Follow-up Letter**

"That the Board approve the follow-up letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Union of BC Municipalities-Minister Meetings/Ministry Staff Meetings/Resolutions

#### Minister Meeting Requests – Deadline for submission June 21, 2024

- Meeting Ministers related to RDBN resolutions brought forward at the NCLGA Conference in Smithers May 13-16
- Prioritize 3-5 key issues to Ministers/Ministry staff
- Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
  - o Environmental Assessment Process
- Minister of Forests.

Due to it being an election year request meetings with Ministry staff. The deadline for meeting request is August 21, 2024. Using Signal App or WhatsApp while attending the UBCM Convention to track resolutions sessions and scheduling meetings with Ministers once the election is complete was discussed.

#### Resolutions – Deadline for submission to UBCM by June 15, 2024

- NCLGA Resolutions
  - o Submit NCLGA defeated RDBN resolution “Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers” to UBCM
- Cohesive Environmental Assessment Process – e.g. transmission lines
- Expanding the size of Community Forests
  - o Raise concerns regarding impacts to communities with the lack of access to the land base and fibre
  - o Highlight BC Timber Sales
  - o 2023 RDBN UBCM Resolution – 2023 Wildfire Season – Economic Impacts to the Forestry Sector – Request for Inventory
  - o District of Fort St. James NCLGA Resolution: Review of Timber Allocation to Mitigate Economic Impact on Local Communities
- Changes to appurtenancy
  - o Return fibre to communities when mills close
  - o Ensure fibre remains in the community
- Provincial Government committing funds to data research
  - o Adequate data is required for good decision making:
    - Aquifers, lakes, rivers, streams and timber.

Smithers Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2049, 2024 Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2024-8-14

“That Smithers Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2049, 2024 be given first, second, and third reading this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Lunch at 11:55**

**Reconvened at 12:39 p.m.**

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

RDBN Procedure Bylaw No. 2042, 2024 and Electronic Meeting Policy

Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Moutray

2024-8-15

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Procedure Bylaw No. 2042, 2024 be given first, second, and third reading this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024.

Further, that the Board adopt the Electronic Meeting Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Remuneration Bylaw Amendment

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-8-16

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Directors' Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw Amendment No. 2050, 2024 be given first, second, and third reading this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Funded Organization Expectation of Accountability Policy

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-8-17

"That the Board approve the new Funded Organization Expectation of Accountability Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-8-18

"That the Board of Directors approve the 2023 Statement of Financial Information.

That the Chair and Chief Financial Officer be authorized to sign the SOFI report approving the statements and schedule of financial information."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Director Riis-Christianson removed himself from the meeting at 11:51 pm due to a conflict of interest regarding Local Service Area Contract – Lakes District Museum due to being employed by the Lakes District Museum.

Local Service Area Contract      Moved by Director Dekens  
-Lakes District Museum      Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-8-19      "That the Board authorize the Chair and CAO to enter into the Local Service Area Contract with the Lakes District Museum Society."

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson returned to the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

2023 Emergency Operations      Moved by Director Dekens  
Deficit      Seconded by Director Newell

2024-8-20      "That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's 2023 Emergency Operations Deficit memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid for Area C      Moved by Director Greenaway  
(Fort St. James Rural) Fort St.      Seconded by Director Elphee  
James Minor Hockey – Fort  
Forum Concession Renovation

2024-8-21      "That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Fort St. James Minor Hockey Association for a renovation project at the Fort Forum Arena Concession."

(All/Directors/Majority)      CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

RDBN Letter to Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – Wildlife Habitat Area Proposal for Southern Mountain Caribou (WHA 6-291) in the Nadina Natural Resource District Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-8-22

“That the Board ratify the letter to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship regarding Wildlife Habitat Area Proposal for Southern Mountain Caribou (WHA 6-291) in the Nadina Natural Resource District.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minister of Forests Response Letter regarding Old Growth Deferral Overlapping Agricultural Land Reserve and RDBN Letter Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-8-23

“That the Board receive the correspondence from Minister of Forests providing a response regarding Old Growth Deferral Overlapping Agricultural Land Reserve and the RDBN Letter.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Lambert and staff to contact Ministry of Agriculture and Food to determine examples in the Province where old growth deferral areas overlap the agriculture land reserve to provide the information when meeting with the Minister of Forests.

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission – The Commission’s Role in Northern BC Temporary Re-Introduction of “Regulated Area” Restriction Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-8-24

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission regarding the Commission’s Role in Northern BC Temporary Re-Introduction of “Regulated Area” Restriction.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

Comox Valley Regional District Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
-Funding and Supports for      Seconded by Director Dekens  
Emergency Response, Planning  
and Mitigation

2024-8-25

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Comox Valley Regional District regarding Funding and Supports for Emergency response, Planning and Mitigation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire provided the following update:

- UBCM meeting requests
  - Requested a meeting with BC Emergency Health Services regarding BC Ambulance.
    - Willing to share any Regional District concerns if required
- Fulton River Fisheries Bridge Replacement
  - Detour starting July 3, 2024 for an 18 month construction period
  - Lakes District Maintenance responsible for 1.5 km detour
  - Concerns regarding the 8% grade of the detour
- Bulkley Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Plan completion – Thank you to RDBN staff and BNJAAC Chair Greenaway for their work in developing the Plan
- met with Northen Health while attending the NCLGA in Smithers May 13-16<sup>th</sup>
- thank you to the District of Houston and Mayor Brienens for expanding the Aging Seniors Aquafit Program to accommodate 10 participants from the Village of Granisle. They will be taking the Community Bus to attend the program.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural) – Update

Director Stoltenberg noted that there are several emergency wildfire response groups working towards becoming societies. A meeting was held at the Round Lake Hall May 22<sup>nd</sup> with good attendance.

**VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

District of Vanderhoof  
-Update

Director Moutray reported that the District of Vanderhoof's new public works building is now open. The District is also starting its summer paving projects and has a number of exciting projects taking place in the community.

Electoral Area G (Houston/  
Granisle Rural) – Update

Director Newell mentioned he attended Minerals North in Kitimat May 8-10<sup>th</sup> and it was very beneficial to understand proposed opportunities in the region.

Director Newell commented that the Buck Flats Community Society is being reinstated and will be moving towards work on emergency wildfire response.

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

- Men's Shed group has registered as a society and has started in Burns Lake
- new Fire Hall is nearing completion and will be opening in early July
- intersection improvement project at Highway 16 and Richmond Loop will begin in June with completion in September
- Village of Burns Lake received an Active Transportation Grant to improve Government Street from the Co-op Gas Station and the Village of Burns Lake Office
- utilizing grant funding to complete a replacement signage project at the Industrial Site and way finding signs throughout the community.

District of Houston – Update

Director Brienens noted the following:

- attended Minerals North in Kitimat May 8-10<sup>th</sup>
- Canfor announcement to suspend the rebuild of its Houston sawmill
- attended NCLGA in Smithers May 13-16<sup>th</sup>
  - Great event, tours were well done and good attendance.

## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill spoke of the following:

- Town of Smithers co-hosting NCLGA in Smithers May 13-16<sup>th</sup>
  - expressed appreciation to everyone that was able to attend
  - approximate registration numbers
  - Thank you to the District of Chetwynd for their gift of a chainsaw carving to the Town of Smithers
  - Thank you to the Town of Smithers, District of Houston, RDBN and NCLGA staff, NCLGA Planning Committee members and Elected Officials towards creating a successful event
- a 12- year-old Smithers girl received the Fire Chiefs Commendation for alerting her family in a house fire
- new Afro-Caribbean Store that has opened in downtown smithers
- invited to participate on the Federal Standing Committee on Transportation regarding small and medium airports.

### Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Director Lambert noted the following:

- met with the Southside BC Ambulance Chief regarding the new classification by the province and expressed interest in joining the Village of Granisle if they meet with BC Ambulance at UBCM in September
  - Residents are calling the Ambulance for non-emergency transportation
  - ask of Northern Health to have the option of transporting patients to the Southside Health and Wellness Centre
- Omineca Princess Ferry will be dismantled June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Chinook Emergency Response Society held three Wildfire Preparedness days
  - Trout Creek
  - Grassy Plains
  - Francois Lake
  - Rose Lake Hall will be held May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee provided the following update:

- Utilizing main carriers for flights to UBCM
- Community Preparedness Week meeting
- Hosted two Town Hall meetings
- Thanked the organizers of NCLGA.



## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update Alternate Director Kulchar invited the Board to attend a Community Information Session in Vanderhoof May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm regarding an individual's experience in Trail B.C. with utility companies placing transmission lines through his property.

Alt. Director Kulchar announced that the Nechako Valley Exhibition is in the planning process for their event taking place August 16-18<sup>th</sup>.

Village of Telkwa – Update Director Dekens spoke of the following:

- thanked the organizers of NCLGA in Smithers
- attended Minerals North in Kitimat May 8-10<sup>th</sup>
- Village of Telkwa Volunteer Fire Department was deployed to Fort Nelson to assist with wildfires
- Whistle Grove subdivision storm sewer system
- conducting well water study to assist in moving forward development of the subdivision.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update Director Riis-Christianson commented that the Food Cycler Pilot Project with the Village of Burns Lake and a portion of Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) now has a waiting list for additional units.

Town of Fraser Lake – Update Director Storey provided the following update:

- met with BC Hydro regarding work camps for upcoming transmission line construction in the community
- met with Northern Health regarding retention and attraction of healthcare workers and to advocate for education changes for training healthcare professionals. Those discussions are taking place with Northern Medical Programs Trust as well
- attended a meeting regarding the BC Centre of Excellence to be built in Prince George
  - Help children 0-19 years to have welcoming space to provide holistic and seamless wrap around supports and services
  - Transportation options for families and children was also discussed
  - Premier Eby has requested feedback and comments by the end of June, 2024
  - Important initiative

**VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- met with CNC, along with Chair Parker and Director Moutray to discuss the mill closure in Fraser Lake and how the CNC could support regarding education and retraining opportunities
- working to complete thinning and ecosystem restoration with support from Stella'ten First Nation.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker noted the following:

- impacts of the construction of transmission lines in the region
- visited and toured Clearview Landfill
- attended NCLGA in Smithers – thank you to the organizers and Town of Smithers
  - Moderated a Panel regarding Emergency Management
- Fort Fraser Volunteer Fire Department received its package for its new bay
- Wildfire Preparedness event at Glennanen.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-8-26

“That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

Service Borrowing

Director Lambert spoke to service borrowing and long-term planning regarding future services and provincial funding for the Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance.

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Brien

2024-8-27

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

- Labour Relations
- Legal Matters
- Connectivity.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-8-28

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:42 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate  
Services