



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Supplementary AGENDA

Thursday, March 7, 2024

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>MINUTES</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
2-19	Board Meeting Minutes -February 22, 2024	Approve
	<u>REPORT</u>	
20	Christopher Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator-Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Emergency Operations Centre Application	Recommendation
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**MEETING NO. 2****Thursday, February 22, 2024**

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Shane Brienen – left at 2:22 p.m., returned at 2:32 p.m. Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert – left at 11:24 a.m., returned at 11:28 a.m., returned from lunch at 12:52 p.m. Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Sarrah Storey Stoney Stoltenberg Henry Wiebe
	Directors Absent	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa
	Alternate Directors	Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa via Zoom Frank Wray, Town of Smithers
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – via Zoom Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – left at 11:15 a.m., returned at 11:20 a.m., left at 12:57 p.m., returned at 1:03 p.m. Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – arrived at 1:48 p.m., left at 3:08 p.m. Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – left at 11:23 a.m., arrived at 1:22 p.m., left at 1:43 p.m., returned at 3:25 p.m. Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – left at 11:07 a.m. Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – via Zoom – arrived at 2:37 p.m., left at 3:20 p.m. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:01 a.m., returned at 11:40 a.m., left at 1:28 p.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Others	Enzo Casal, Founder and Director, Vio Sustainability – via Zoom – left at 11:22 a.m. Shane Hedderson, Director, Western Region, CleanFarms – via Zoom – left at 11:22 a.m. Andy Muma, President, Houston Search and Rescue– left at 12:12 p.m.

Other (Cont'd) Paul Broen, President, Fort St. James Search and Rescue- left at 12:12 p.m.
 Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue – via Zoom – left at 12:12 p.m.
 Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue Association – via Zoom – left at 12:12 p.m.
 Tamara Gillis, Facility Manager, Bulkley Valley Aquatic Centre Management Society – arrived at 11:02 a.m., left at 1:26 p.m., returned at 1:30 p.m., left at 2:09 p.m., returned at 3:08 p.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News left at 12:12 p.m., returned at 1:26 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-2-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of February 22, 2024 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-January 25, 2024

Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-2-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2024 be adopted as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
-February 8, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-2-3

“That the Board receive the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2024.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES (CONT'D)

Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes -December 15, 2023
2024-2-4 Moved by Director Moutray
 Seconded by Director Greenaway
 "That the Board receive the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -February 8, 2024
2024-2-5 Moved by Director Greenaway
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
 "That the Board receive the Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

CLEANFARMS – Enzo Casal, Founder and Director, Vio Sustainability and Shane Hedderson, Director, Western Region, CleanFarms Re: Agriculture Plastics Pilot Project – via Zoom

Chair Parker welcomed Enzo Casal, Founder and Director, Vio Sustainability and Shane Hedderson, Director, Western Region, Cleanfarms.

Messrs. Hedderson and Casal provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Agriculture Plastics (3-year) Pilot Project

- Cleanfarms: industry-led, funded
- RDBN Pilot Background
- Typical Transfer Site Collection Model
- RDBN Ag Plastic Collection Pilot
- Challenges
- RDBN Program Today
- To-date Collection
- Learning from Neighbours:
 - o Regional District of Fraser Fort-George On-farm Compactor Baling
 - o Peace River Regional District Advertising
- What's coming next...
- EPR for Agriculture
- What's coming next for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change EPR implementation timeline
- Market Development = Cost efficiency
- Proposal for Extension.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

CLEANFARMS - Enzo Casal, Founder and Director, Vio Sustainability and Shane Hedderson, Director, Western Region, CleanFarms Re: Agriculture Plastics Pilot Project - via Zoom (Con'td)

The following was discussed:

- No profit recycling bale wrap
- Small profit from recycling twine – higher value market
- Proposed federal regulations regarding plastics potentially coming into effect in 2025
 - o Consideration of continuing the Pilot for an additional 3 years to await regulation roll out
- Shipping the products as quickly as possible with minimal storage of material
- Budget Option 1: RDBN 2024-2027 Pilot Extension
 - o Can adjust budget
 - o Application to renew Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) funding
- Budget Option 2: RDBN 2024-2024 Pilot Extension
- Regional District of Fraser Fort-George tonnages
 - o Comparison to RDBN
 - o Challenging to compare due to differences between the programs
- Administration costs
- Decrease in volume in 2022 and 2023
 - o First year of pilot can see influx of material from product being stored
- Concerns regarding the potential for higher levels of government to change direction regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program and ICI (Industrial, Commercial, Institutional) recycling programs
- Data can be used for informing policy moving forward.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Casal and Hedderson for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

SEARCH AND RESCUE- Andy Muma, President, Houston Search and Rescue, Paul Broen, President, Fort St. James Search and Rescue, Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue, Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue Association Re: Search and Rescue Capabilities

Chair Parker welcomed Andy Muma, President Houston Search and Rescue, Paul Broen, President, Fort St. James Search and Rescue, Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue, Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue.

Andy Muma, President – Houston SAR

- Moratorium on Search and Rescue capabilities
- Houston SAR wanting to develop canine search capability
 - o Volunteer came forward wanting to achieve search dog capabilities and complete certification

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

SEARCH AND RESCUE- Andy Muma, President, Houston Search and Rescue, Paul Broen, President, Fort St. James Search and Rescue, Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue, Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue Association Re: Search and Rescue Capabilities (Cont'd)

- Canine passed top of its class
- Support from RCMP, BC Search Dog Association, RDBN and neighbouring SAR teams
- Canines working life is approximately 6 years
- Training Certification need to be completed within one year of start
- Applied to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)
 - Application denied due to moratorium implemented ~ 3 years ago
 - Capabilities can only be approved by the EMCR Director
- Recently spoke to media and Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine
- EMCR indicated it would conduct a needs assessment of all capabilities which has yet to occur
- SAR teams called to a search may not have the capabilities required due to the moratorium
- A list of SAR capabilities
- Search and Rescue is a tri-partnership
 - SAR Team
 - Volunteers 24/7, 365 days of the year
 - Continued improvement after every search
 - Local funding and technical research
 - Community safety
 - Local community
 - Provides the volunteers
 - Majority of funding through fundraising
 - Province
 - ~\$5 million funding
 - WorkSafeBC and Workers Compensation
 - Basic training
 - Veto decision-making over-all search capabilities
- Value of local decision making.

Paul Broen, President Fort St. James SAR

- Capabilities removed since moratorium
 - No longer able to perform tracking capabilities
- Mr. Broen is a Tracking Instructor
- Challenges for SAR Teams to have capabilities removed
- Moratorium has been a challenge
- Neighbouring SAR Teams train in Fort St. James but due to Fort St. James SAR not having certain capabilities they are unable to train

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

SEARCH AND RESCUE- Andy Muma, President Houston Search and Rescue, Paul Broen, President, Fort St. James Search and Rescue, Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue, Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue Association Re: Search and Rescue Capabilities (Cont'd)

Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue

- Pervious team members trained in rope rescue
 - o Spent considerable time, money and effort to travel to Prince George to train
 - o Rope Rescue capability was removed
 - o Demoralizing and impacts to volunteers who are passionate about providing search and rescue capabilities
- Use of drones put on hold due to moratorium
 - o Region would benefit from the use of drones in search and rescue but unable to develop capability

The following was discussed:

- Provincial decision to implement moratorium
- Recent discussion with Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine and Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
- Lack of public response from EMCR
- Challenges for SAR Managers during search and rescue operations to explain inability to provide assistance
- EMCR SAR Unit
 - o EMCR Director is located in Kamloops and has the authority to determine SAR Team capabilities
 - o Two staff members
- Provincial supports
 - o WorkSafe coverage
 - o Stable funding
 - o Basic training program
- Having more local government input regarding local SAR Team capabilities moving forward would be a benefit
- Funding formula and allocation based on capabilities
 - o Over past 5 years funding has decreased and stayed consistent with inflation
- Moratorium implemented due to costs and liability
- Northern statistics for response times
 - o Searches in the north often require further travel and are longer searches in comparison to southern B.C.
 - o Unique differences between southern B.C. and northern B.C.
- Importance of having tracking and canine capabilities in northern B.C.
- Value of having water/ice capabilities due to the significant amount of water bodies in the region
- Value of residents and providing SAR capabilities in the region
- Volunteers want to provide various capabilities – don't want to volunteer if unable to perform adequate search and rescue capabilities.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

SEARCH AND RESCUE- Andy Muma, President Houston Search and Rescue, Paul Broen, President, Fort St. James Search and Rescue, Lorn Kennedy, Search Manager, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue, Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue Association Re: Search and Rescue Capabilities (Cont'd)

Joan Burdeniuk, Regional Director, BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA)

- BCSARA represents and advocates for all Search and Rescue Teams in BC
- Gap analysis was to be completed when the moratorium was implemented by the Province 3 years ago and has yet to take place
- BCSARA brought forward the issue to the media and EMCR has now indicated it will complete the gap analysis within the year
 - o EMCR requesting RCMP to identify areas where SAR is unable to deliver capabilities/skills.

Chair Parker thanked the SAR Teams for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

OCP Amendment and
 Rezoning Application
 RZ A-03-23 – 1st and 2nd
 Reading for Bylaws No. 2030
 and 2031 – Electoral Area A
 (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-2-6

1. "That the Board consider and approve the consultation identified in the consultation checklist.
2. That Smithers Telkwa Rural Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2030, 2024 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2031, 2024 be given first and second reading the 22nd day of February, 2024 and that Bylaw 2030 and 2031 be taken to Public Hearing.
3. That the Public Hearing for Bylaw 2030 and 2031 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A.
4. That the Public Hearing for Bylaw 2030 and 2031 not be scheduled until a draft of the proposed covenant and easement are available for public review to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

Public Notice Bylaw No. 2032 Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
1st and 2nd Reading Report and Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
Draft Public Notice Policy

2024-2-7

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Public Notice Bylaw No. 2032, 2024 be given first and second reading this 22nd February, 2024.

2. That the Board receive the Draft Public Notice Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Rezoning Application
RZ A-04-23 Adoption for
Rezoning Bylaw No. 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-2-8

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2023, 2023 be adopted this 22nd day of February, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning
Commission Meeting
Minutes – Electoral Area A
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-2-9

"That Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Application

ALR Subdivision Application
1264, Electoral Area A
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-2-10

"That the Board receive the Referral Responses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and RDBN Agriculture Coordinator for the Subdivision ALR Application 1264 on the Supplementary Agenda.

That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1264 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Pipeline Referral

PRGT Project Extension
Notification No. 130316
Middle River Compressor Site
Permit and Section 2, 2a, 3 and 4
Pipeline Permits Electoral Area C
(Fort St. James Rural) and
Electoral Area G (Houston/
Granisle Rural)

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-2-11

"That staff be directed to inform TC Energy that the Board's October 14, 2014 letter remains valid and contains the RDBN's comments in regard to the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project Permit Extension applications."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Lessons learned from the Coastal GasLink Project
 - RDBN brought forward concerns to the LNG Secretariat
 - CGL through its Environmental Assessment process utilized Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) engagement process
- SEEMP process is not guaranteed for the PRGT Project
- Importance of having commitments in writing
- Reach out to the LNG Secretariat and BC Energy Regulator.
- TC Energy has indicated willingness to meet with the Board.

Land Referral

Land Referral No. 7406544 Moved by Director Moon
Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Seconded by Director Moutray
Rural)

2024-2-12

"That the comment sheet be amended by adding the recommendation that the Province consult with the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative Society to ensure that the proposed maintenance activities do not have a negative impact on sturgeon habitat.

And that the comment sheet, as amended, be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7406544."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Water Referral

Water Referral No. 7003153 Moved by Director Greenaway
Electoral Area C (Fort St. Seconded by Director Elphee
James Rural)

2024-2-13

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Water Act Referral No. 7003153."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Land Act Amendments Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-2-14

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's *Land Act* Amendments memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other (Cont'd)

Housing Initiatives Program
 Capacity Funding

Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-2-15

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Housing Initiatives Program Capacity Funding memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Impacts to the Regional District from the implementation of Bill 44, 46, and 47
 - Changes to the Public Hearing process
 - Allowing single dwelling properties to have a second standing dwelling or secondary suite
 - Minimum amendments to Industrial land use
 - Updating Housing Needs Reports and Official Community Plans every five years
 - The Province has mandated Zoning Bylaw amendments be completed by June, 2024
 - RDBN Zoning Bylaw is largely in compliance with the Province's mandates
- Scope and guidelines for Capacity Funding for Local Government Housing Initiative Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Agricultural Plastics (3-year)
 Pilot Project

Moved by Director Moutray
 Seconded by Director Brienen

2024-2-16

"That the Board receive the Waste Diversion Supervisor's Agricultural Plastics (3-year) Pilot Project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Industrial Commercial and Institutional (ICI) recycling programs and provincial intentions paper drafted in 2021
- Diverting Ag plastics from the landfill
- Having additional discussions with the Agriculture Sector
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) provincial targets
- Program contamination levels
- Program costs and collection rates and alternate funding options.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Committee Meeting
Recommendations
-February 8, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-2-17

"That the Board approve recommendations 1 and 2 as written:

Committee of the Whole - February 8, 2024

Recommendation 1:

Re: District of Houston - Letter of Support Request

"That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the District of Houston for their funding application to the Northern Healthy Communities Fund - Capacity Building Program."

Rural/Agriculture Committee - February 8, 2024

Recommendation 2:

Re: Letter to Ministry of Forests Re: Old Growth Management and Deferral areas on Crown Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Land

"That the Committee recommend that the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Forests requesting information regarding all old growth management areas, including old growth deferral areas, encompassing Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Land and outline how the impacts to the ALR Land is being considered."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

North Central Local
Government Association AGM
& Convention May 13-16, 2024
Smithers, B.C.

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-2-18

"That the Chair and Rural Directors be authorized to attend the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) AGM and Convention in Smithers, B.C. from May 13-16, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

NCLGA Resolutions

The following was discussed:

- Strategic lobbying efforts with the provincial government
 - Writing letters vs. resolutions and prioritizing resolutions
 - Requesting meetings with ministers outside of the UBCM Convention
 - Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers
 - Brought forward at 2023 UBCM Convention
 - Minimal attendance during resolution session
 - Director Newell spoke to the resolution at the 2023 UBCM Convention
 - Potentially writing a letter to follow-up
 - Resubmitting resolution
 - Research to determine impact from provincial vaccine mandate for healthcare workers and ensure healthcare staffing levels remain on par with other jurisdictions
 - Healthcare crisis – numbers of individuals dying while awaiting surgery
 - Potentially amending the 2023 resolution
 - Collective effort and voice when attending Minister meetings and resolution sessions
 - Joint resolutions
 - Including a solution for resolutions brought forward for consideration
 - Ensuring resolutions submitted have someone to speak to the concern
 - Village of Frase Lake will continue to move forward:
 - Licensed Practical Nurses Transition to Registered Nurse Accreditation
 - Revoking the Timber Rights of Fraser Lake West Fraser Sawmill
 - Work with First Nations and have tenure return to the region/remain in the region
 - Water Buoy – Director Storey will continue to discuss with Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley
 - 911 Call Levy - Advocacy and write a letter
 - Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers - research statistics
 - *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* – continue to monitor moving forward
 - *Land Act* – Province has delayed
 - Housing resolution consideration – wait to move forward
- Draft a resolution for the following:
- Medical Professionals – condensed training opportunities
 - Industry shutdown – tenure reverts to Province
 - Search and Rescue – Capability Approval Process.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

2024 Budget

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-2-19

"That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's 2024 Budget – Environmental Services Capital Detail Supplementary Agenda memorandum.

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2036, 2024 be given first and second reading this 22nd day of February, 2024."

(All/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- 2024 Budget – Environmental Services Capital Detail
- Environmental Services requisition increase
- Business Continuity plan
- Concerns if have to raise taxation
 - Currently maintaining tax rates
 - Average taxpayer will pay the same as 2023
- Operational reserves at the discretion of the Board
- Ability to achieve a balanced approach over the next 3 years with the pipeline assessment and taxation
- Building reserves and future proofing with small affordable increases to achieve good governance
- Bring forward Environmental Services Department Strategic Planning
 - Currently utilizing grant funding to balance ES budget
 - Implementation of tipping fees being cost neutral.

Bulkley Valley Regional Pool
 -Lobby Upgrade Project

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-2-20

"That the Board direct staff to assist the Bulkley Valley Aquatic Center Management Society to secure grant funding for lobby and administration upgrades at the Bulkley Valley Regional Pool."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Grant in Aid Policy Update Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-2-21 "That the Board approve the updated RDBN Grant in Aid Policy."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bulkley Valley Cross Country
 Ski Club – NDIT Resolution
 of Support Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-2-22 "That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club for the Buchfinck Lodge Heat Pump and Ventilation System project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bulkley Valley Kayak and
 Canoe Club – NDIT Resolution
 of Support Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-2-23 "That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Bulkley Valley Kayak and Canoe Club for the 2024 Tatlowfest Paddling Festival. "

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nechako Valley Sporting
 Association – NDIT Resolution
 of Support Moved by Director Moon
 Seconded by Director Storey

2024-2-24 "That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Nechako Valley Sporting Association for the Nechako Nordics Grooming, Maintenance, and Storage Shop project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Emergency and Disaster Management Act and Premier's Expert Taskforce meetings to date Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Storey

2024-2-25

"That the Board receive the Director of Protective Service's *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and Premier's Expert Taskforce meetings to date memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

BC Hydro – Northwest BC Electrification Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director McGuire

2024-2-26

"That the Board receive the correspondence from BC Hydro regarding Northwest BC Electrification."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Development 2024 Economic Development Capacity Building Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-2-27

"That the Board receive the correspondence from Northern Development regarding the 2024 Economic Development Capacity Building Northern Development Project Number 8973 30."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership -Skeena Region Agricultural Water Management Workshop 2024 Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-2-28

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership regarding Skeena Regional Agricultural Water Management Workshop 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

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

Director Greenaway provided the following update:

- Participated in a master’s research on rural sustainability and climate targets and effects on small rural communities meeting
- Directors Greenaway and Elphee served a Family Day Breakfast at Nak’alibun Elementary School
- Met with Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley at the Stuart Lake Seniors Association where he provided a presentation regarding the new Federal Dental Plan for seniors.

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) – Update

Director Newell spoke of attending the Widzin Kwah Water Sustainability Management meetings.

Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire provided the following update:

- Community Garden
 - Planning and preparing 100 garden beds in cooperation with Babine Elementary Secondary School and Tachet Community
- Budget process being completed.

Village of Fraser Lake Town Hall Meeting

Director Storey announced that the Village of Fraser Lake is holding a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, February 29th from 4-7 p.m. to discuss the Fraser Lake West Fraser Sawmill closure.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker mentioned that he was a judge at the School District 91 Nechako Lakes District Science Fair at Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School. He noted that it was a great event and spoke to participating in such a rewarding opportunity.

Director Wiebe noted that he was a judge for the Decker Lake Elementary School Science Fair.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-2-30

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Letter to Emergency
 Management and Climate
 Readiness Re: SAR
 Capabilities

Moved by Director Newell
 Seconded by Director Storey

2024-2-31

"That the Board write a letter inviting the Director, Provincial Response Programs, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine to a future Board meeting to provide a presentation regarding Search and Rescue capabilities; and further, that the Board write a letter to Premier Eby, the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine regarding the moratorium on Search and Rescue capabilities, the lack of a gap analysis in the three years since the moratorium was implemented, the determination process to remove capabilities and consideration of the impacts of inflation to the Search and Rescue provincial budget allocation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-2-32

"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:

- Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)
- Labour Relations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-2-33

"That the meeting be adjourned at 3:30 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Christopher Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator
Date: March 21, 2024
Subject: **Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund –
Emergency Operations Centre Application**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

That the Board supports the submission of an application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Operations Centre for the 2024 funding stream.

Further, the Board authorizes staff and understands that if the grant is approved, the RDBN will receive and manage all grant funding, and commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns.

BACKGROUND

The application deadline for the Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) intake is February 23, 2024. Up to \$30,000 is available per local government to build local emergency response capacity through the purchase of equipment, supplies, training, and exercises.

DISCUSSION

The grant funding provides an opportunity for the RDBN to increase the safety of our staff by proper identification and identifiable personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff had issues during the 2023 wildfire season with external agencies and public questioning the validity of RDBN EOC staff deployed into the field, attending BCWS meetings, and conducting damage assessments. Communications between field staff and EOC was an issue, improving the radios and satellite phones staff have access to will mitigate some risks of the required work during emergencies. Headsets for EOC phones were requested to reduce background noise and hearing issues in the EOC room. The total project budget is \$29,157.50.

The grant application requires a resolution from the local government indicating support for the activities in the proposed project.