

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 15

Thursday, December 16, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill - via Zoom – left at 12:45 p.m.
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Annette Morgan – via Zoom
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – left at 1:09 p.m.
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – left at 1:27 p.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – left at 1:27 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning - via Zoom– left at 1:27 p.m.
Joshua Platt, Environmental Services Technician – left at 10:05 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others – Via Zoom
CFNR FM Radio – left at 11:22 a.m.
Colin Bruintjes, Smithers – left at 11:18 a.m.
Brooke Haberst, Smithers – left at 11:57 a.m.
Giah Labonte, Smithers – left at 11:18 a.m.
David Lalik, Smithers – left at 11:29 a.m.
C. McKinnon, Smithers – left at 11:27 a.m.
Morven, Smithers – left at 11:46 a.m.
Patty Peterson, Smithers – left at 11:46 a.m.
Lane Perry, Perry & Co. Smithers – left at 11:18 a.m.
Connie Scott, Smithers – left at 11:18 a.m.
Shari Smaha, Smithers – left at 11:46 a.m.
Barry Smith, Smithers – left at 11:18 a.m.
A. Tomayer, Smithers – via Zoom – left at 11:46 a.m.
Deb Trumbley, Director, Northern Regions, BC Emergency Health Services – via Zoom – left at 10:36 a.m.
Fred Wilson, Smithers – left at 11:53 a.m.

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

STAFF INTRODUCTION

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services introduced Joshua Platt, Environmental Services Technician.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-15-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of December 16, 2021 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Petersen

2021-15-2

“That the Board Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2021 be adopted as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

BC EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES – Deb Trumbley, Director, Northern Regions RE: BCEHS Prioritization Model and Staffing in Communities

Chair Thiessen welcomed Deb Trumbley, Director, Northern Regions, BC Emergency Health Services.

Improving the BCEHS Staffing Model

Introducing a regulated paramedic workforce

- Transforming BCEHS service
- Rural and Remote Staffing
- New Staffing Model: Scheduled On-Call (SOC)
- Community Paramedicine and SOC
- How will SOC help?
- When did this happen?
- What is happening in the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District?
- More on Resources
 - o Granisle
 - o Vanderhoof
 - o Fraser Lake
 - o Fort St. James
 - o Burns Lake
- Transition & Maintaining Emergency 911 Coverage.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- BCEHS coverage
 - o Houston – Full-time station
 - o Smithers – Full-time station
 - o Increased services in both Houston and Smithers

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

BC EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES – Deb Trumbley, Director, Northern Regions RE: BCEHS Prioritization Model and Staffing in Communities (Cont'd)

- Scheduled on Call (SOC) position in Granisle
 - o Blended Community Paramedic into SOC position
 - Receiving calls for an SOC while on a Community Paramedic visit
 - BCEHS will monitor closely the number of calls interrupted
- Village of Granisle and BCEHS working together for a BCEHS Ambulance Station
 - o Capital monies to build a new station
 - o Included in BCEHS 10-year plan and submitted for capital investments
- The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health announced in July 2021 85 new Paramedic positions
 - o How many BCEHS payroll positions are new and how many are relocating within BCEHS after - Ms. Trumbley will follow up
- Four of the 85 new positions were created for a new unit in Prince George
- Fraser Lake incidents that occurred with no Ambulance coverage
 - o Lack of available ambulances as they are in other communities
 - o Unable to reach BCEHS through 911 during heat dome in 2021
 - BCEHS received over 3000 calls on the first day of the heat dome in 2021
 - o Concerns regarding residents not having access to Ambulance services and having to deliver patients via personal vehicles
 - Ms. Trumbley spoke of cross community coverage and additional resources have been added to assist
 - o Ms. Trumbley recognized the terrible experience that occurred
- Pager rate of pay for on call paramedics
- Southside Ambulance
 - o Community Paramedic model similar to Village of Granisle
 - Will be monitoring the model
 - Due to Community Paramedic travel distances to visit clients their partners travel with them.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Trumbley for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors)

Bylaw for 3rd Reading and Adoption

Rezoning Application
RZ-A-07-21 – 3rd Reading
Rezoning Bylaw
No. 1966, 2021
-Electoral Area “A”

Discussion took place regarding the proposed crematorium:
- Public Hearing process and value of community participation
- Number of properties potentially impacted
- Potential pollution and air quality in the Bulkley Valley
- Conflicting opinions regarding health impacts and the need for more objective information
- Current zoning and land use permitted for the property.

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Petersen

2021-15-3

1. “That the Regional District Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1966, 2021.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1966, 2021 be denied at 3rd Reading.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors) (CONT'D)

Bylaw for 3rd Reading and Adoption (Cont'd)

3. And that staff be directed to work with the proponent to identify an alternative location for a Crematorium.”

Opposed: Director Lambert CARRIED
 Director McGuire
 Director Motion

(All/Directors/Majority)

Rezoning Application
RZ- A-08-21 – 3rd Reading
Rezoning Bylaw No. 1965, 2021
- Electoral Area “A”

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-15-4

1. “That the Regional District Board receive the Public Hearing Report for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1965, 2021.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1965, 2021” be given 3rd reading and adoption this 16th day of December, 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)

Miscellaneous Referral

Director Funk removed herself from the meeting at 11:22 a.m. due to a conflict of interest regarding the Village of Burns Lake’s ownership in BL Comfor Ltd.

BL Comfor Ltd. Bridge Over
Burns Lake

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2021-15-5

“That staff be directed to work with Burns Lake Community Forest to explore options for their establishment of a bridge that can be maintained as a permanent pedestrian access to the south shore of Burns Lake to facilitate future trail and recreational development in this area.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Funk returned at 11:24 a.m.

OTHER

ALC Regulation Changes to
Residential Flexibility Options

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2021-15-6

“That the Board receive the Senior Planner’s ALC Regulation Changes to Residential Flexibility Options staff report.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the Zoning Bylaw definition of the Total Floor Area (TFA) and the ALC's definition. Staff discussed utilizing the ALC's definition. The Board discussed bringing the item forward at a future Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting to have further discussion.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

2022 Capital Budget
Pre-Approval – Air Curtain
Burner Purchase

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-15-7

“That the Board pre-approve \$100,000 in the 2022 Capital Budget purchase of an air curtain burner.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services provided an overview of the 2022 Capital Budget Pre-Approval – Air Curtain Burner Purchase memorandum. He provided an explanation regarding the operations of the air curtain burner.

Discussion took place regarding:

- burning of brush and clean wood waste
- Uses for ash and wood chips in farming operations
- Potential options for brush and wood waste
- Analysis of grinding pilot project in early 2022
- Operation Certificate for the Knockholt Landfill.

Break for Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Smithers Rural Recreation
and Culture Service Area
Boundary Amendment Bylaw
No. 1968, 2021

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Brien

2021-15-8

“That Smithers Rural Recreation and Culture Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 1968, 2021 be given first, second and third reading this 16th day of December, 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Budget 2022 Update and
Timelines

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-15-9

“That a Committee of the Whole Meeting be scheduled for January 20, 2022 to discuss the Draft 2022 Budget.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Bulkley Valley Aquatic Centre
Budget

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Parker

2021-15-10

“That the Board include the Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Recreation Centre budget in the 2022 Regional District Budget.

That the Regional District renew the contract with the Bulkley Valley Aquatic Management Society for a five-year term from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026.

That the Regional District enter into the Service Provider Agreement with the Bulkley Valley Aquatic Centre Management Society and provide the completed form to the Municipal Insurance Association.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Virtual BC Natural Resources
Forum – January 18-20, 2022

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2021-15-11

“That the Rural Directors be authorized to attend the Virtual BC Natural Resources Forum January 18-20, 2022.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COVID-19 Relief Fund
Applications

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2021-15-12

“That the Board approve the following Applications for COVID-19 Relief Funds:

Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

-Telkwa and District Seniors Society – Insurance and utilities
- \$4,964.59

-Telkwa Museum Society – Utilities - \$3,088.76

-Bulkley Valley Collaborative Learning Society – Rent and Insurance - \$12,556.00

-Friends of the Smithers Library – Storage Fees and eBooks
- \$3,003.51

Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

-Fort St. James 2022 Grad Class – Graduation Activities -
\$2,000.00

Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural)

-Fort Fraser Community Hall Society – Insurance Renewal
2021-2022 - \$3,159.00

-Fraser Lake Chamber of Commerce – Shop and Eat Local
Campaign - \$750.00.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid Request - Nechako
Valley Sporting Association

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

2021-15-13

“That the Nechako Valley Sporting Association be given \$5,000.00 in Grant in Aid monies from Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) to support the construction of a covered shed with electricity and lighting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Northern Development Local
Government Internship
Program

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-15-14

“That the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust for a grant of up to \$50,000 to host an intern under the Local Government Internship Program from the Northwest and Prince George Regional Development Accounts.

And that, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is committed to providing sufficient financial and staffing resources, along with training and professional development opportunities while hosting the intern.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Committee
Appointments – 2022

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Brienen

2021-15-15

“That the Committee appointments for 2022 be ratified.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Appointments - 2022

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Storey

2021-15-16

“That the Board ratify the appointments as outlined for the year 2022:

Bankers: Bulkley Valley Credit Union

Lawyers: Stewart McDannold Stuart, Victoria, BC
Young Anderson, Vancouver, BC
Carvello Law Corp., Victoria, BC

Election Officers: Cheryl Anderson, Chief Election Officer
(with the authority to appoint election officials as necessary)
Geraldine Craven and Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Chief Election Officers

Signing Authority: The Chairperson, the Vice Chair, Director from the Village of Burns Lake, the Director from Electoral Area “B”, the Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, or Director of Corporate Services

Auditors Beswick Hildebrandt Lund CPA.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Storey

2021-15-17

“That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services’ Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from In-Camera Meeting memorandum.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director Brienen

2021-15-18

“That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison’s Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Growing Opportunities Newsletter Update

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

2021-15-19

“That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s (East) Growing Opportunities Newsletter Update memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Administration Correspondence and Action List

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Lambert

2021-15-20

“That the Board receive the following:

Administration Correspondence

- the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training – Veterinary Medicine Services in BC
- the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens’ Services – UBCM Follow-up
- the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – UBCM Follow-up
- TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association - Membership

Action List

- November 2021.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle Lion’s Club

Director McGuire mentioned that the Village of Granisle Lion’s Club is moving forward with its annual “Light up the Trees” Event at the Village of Granisle Memorial Park. An individual may purchase a tree in memoriam. There are 60 trees that have been lit with Christmas lights.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots

Director McGuire noted that the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots are being administered in the community.

Chair Thiessen spoke of the importance of having empathy and focusing on healing.

Village of Granisle Christmas Office Closure

Director McGuire commented that the Village of Granisle Office will be closed for the Christmas break from December 23, 2021 to January 4, 2022.

Connectivity

Director Riis-Christianson mentioned that he has met with CityWest to discuss priority projects.

Director Riis-Christianson attended a Canadian Rural Broadband Meeting. It was identified that there is not a cohesive national strategy for rural connectivity. He commented that broadband infrastructure needs to be viewed as a public utility. Discussion at the meeting also took place regarding low orbit satellites and the cost and the number of satellites being proposed for space. Open access networks was also discussed. He will provide a detailed report at a future Connectivity Committee meeting.

Hay Donations for the Lower Mainland

Director Lambert commented that he is taking hay donations for those impacted by the lower mainland flooding event. He also noted that an account has been set up at the Bulkley Valley Credit Union for donations.

Director Parker mentioned that the Nechako Valley Cattlemen's Association is also collecting hay donations. They are starting to ship to those impacted by flooding in the Merritt area. He noted that the number of local people providing donations was incredible.

Rural/Agriculture Committee Chair Update

Director Parker met with Mark Barnes, Director Office of Research and Innovation at UNBC regarding the Veterinarian Shortage in northern B.C. and scheduling a meeting with area vets, UNBC's Animal Facility Director and other key stakeholders to discuss the issue.

Director Parker also spoke at the Livestock Annual General Meeting. He noted that conversations took place regarding the agriculture initiatives taking place in the RDBN.

Director Parker and Chair Thiessen met with the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General regarding Stay and Defend. They indicated it was a good meeting and that the Ministry committed to further discussions before the next event occurs.

NCLGA Meeting

Director Funk spoke of attending a recent North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Meeting. Discussion took place regarding advocacy work with BC Hydro in 2022 regarding the following topics: power outages, communications, access to electricity and 3 phase power. There is a survey requesting members to respond by January 31, 2022. Director Funk will forward the survey.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

<u>COVID-19 Vaccines</u>	Director Funk reported that the number of people receiving vaccines is rising slowly and booster shots are being administered in Burns Lake.
<u>Better Homes Program -Smithers</u>	Director Fisher met with the Better Homes Program in Smithers.
<u>Trout Creek Property -Smithers</u>	Director Fisher met with various stakeholders regarding the Trout Creek Property in Smithers. He noted discussions took place regarding collaboration, safety and accessibility. He also commented that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has been supportive of potential ideas for the property. Director Fisher mentioned that Witset and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en also participated in the teleconference and discussed education. He noted it was a great meeting and the potential to utilize the property as a community project was good.
<u>Hudson Bay Mountain Resort</u>	Director Fisher mentioned that he has received a number of e-mails regarding the Hudson Bay Mountain Resort ski run to town (Smithers). He indicated that staff are working on the concerns raised in 2020/2021 ski season regarding parking issues at the end of the ski run located in a Smithers neighbourhood.
<u>Green Burials</u>	Director Fisher has received a number of calls regarding green burials as an alternative to crematoriums as he worked on the rezoning application in Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural).
<u>Meeting with Community Energy Association</u>	Director Fisher attended a meeting with the Community Energy Association along with Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Jason Berlin, Chief Building Inspector. Discussion took place regarding eliminating the use of wood heat. Director Newell brought forward concerns in regard to eliminating the use of wood heat. He spoke of the importance of utilizing wood heat to heat homes in rural northern BC
<u>Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)</u>	Director Brienens provided an update regarding the RBA. Ron Poole, CAO Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine met with Ministry staff over the past four months. The RBA Steering Committee is scheduled to meet with the Province on January 11, 2022.
<u>Blackwater Gold Project, Artemis Gold Inc.</u>	Director Petersen attended the Community Liaison Committee meeting for the Artemis Gold Inc. Blackwater Gold Project. Discussion took place regarding the Terms of Reference for the Committee and that construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2022. It will take approximately two years to construct the mine and the proposed life span of the mine is 25 years. Discussion also took place regarding the lack of local labour and skilled labourers.
<u>Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Program</u>	Director Newell met with Liliana Dragowska, HRVA Coordinator and Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural) volunteers Regarding the HRVA Program. He spoke of the amazing volunteers and work that staff has done moving the project forward.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Coastal GasLink – Connectivity Fibre Discussions Director Newell thanked CAO Helgesen for his work with Coastal GasLink regarding connectivity fibre in the Buckflats area in collaboration with Coastal GasLink's Phase 2 Compressor Station.

Wet'suwet'en Regional Engagement Group Meeting Director Newell spoke of the Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation attending the Wet'suwet'en Regional Engagement Group meeting.

Decriminalization of Drugs Director Storey brought forward concerns regarding the decriminalization of drugs that the government is considering. She spoke to the RCMP about their concerns and need for awareness.

Antibullying Committee - Village of Fraser Lake, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation and Stellat'en First Nation Director Storey mentioned that the Village of Fraser Lake, Nadleh Whuet'en and Stellaten First Nations are collaborating on an Antibullying Committee to work with schools and clubs in the area regarding antibullying.

Meeting with the Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Chair Thiessen met with the Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Minister Rankin was encouraged by the work being done at the RDBN.

Meeting with Centerra Gold Chair Thiessen met with Centerra Gold – Mount Milligan. He spoke of the number of workers living in Vanderhoof and area. He spoke of the transition of jobs from forestry to mining.

Police Incident in Vanderhoof Chair Thiessen spoke of the healing needed and taking place in the community of Vanderhoof after the recent incident of a shooting at the RCMP Detachment in Vanderhoof. He mentioned that Saik'uz First Nation Elders assisted in a healing ceremony for the reopening of the RCMP Detachment. He expressed his appreciation to the surrounding communities that provided RCMP support at the time of the event.

Receipt of Verbal Reports Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Newell

2021-15-21 "That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Newell

2021-15-22

“In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations, 90(1)(d) the security of the property of the Regional District (Cyber Security) and 90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District (Somerset Estates), therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Newell

2021-15-23

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:33 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services