

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 5**

**Thursday, May 4, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Leroy Dekens  
Martin Elphee  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey  
Henry Wiebe

Director Shane Brienen, District of Houston  
Absent

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
– arrived at 11:30 a.m., left at 11:50 a.m.  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 1:27 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Taylor Turkington, CPA, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund Chartered  
Professional Accountants – via Zoom – arrived at 1:00 p.m.,  
left at 1:35 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA** Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

**2023-5-1** “That the Board Meeting Agenda of May 4, 2023 be approved;  
and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at  
this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

### **Bylaw for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Rezoning Application  
RZ A-01-23, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Report Bylaw No. 2004, 2023  
Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-2

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2004, 2023 be given first and second reading this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2004, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Other Items**

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

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-3

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Agricultural Land Reserve**

Memorandum of  
Understanding between the  
Ministry of Energy, Mines, and  
Low Carbon Innovation and the  
Agricultural Land Commission

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-5-4

"That the Board receive the Senior Planner's Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and the Agricultural Land Commission memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Agricultural Land Reserve (Cont'd)

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an overview of the memorandum and the Agricultural Land Commission's consideration of the RDBN Advisory Commission and Board's comments and decision-making process. He also spoke of the Notice of Intent and Non-Farm Use application process.

ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) Application No. 1248 Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-5

1. "That the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Referral Comments – ALR Application 1248 Non-Farm Use-Soil Removal on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
2. That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1248 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.
3. That the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation be requested to consult with the owners of 24014 Highway 16 regarding the impact of the proposed gravel pit prior to the issuance of a permit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) Application No. 1250 Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-5-6

1. "That the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Referral Comments – ALR Application 1250 Non-Farm Use-Soil Removal on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
2. "That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1250 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval and that the ALC ensure appropriate phased remediation throughout the life of the gravel pit.
3. That the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation be requested to ensure that the proposed reclamation plans and gravel pit operations consider potential impacts on the water bodies on the subject properties."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Land Referral**

Crown Land Referral  
No. 7410291 – Electoral Area  
C (Fort St. James Rural) Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Newell

2023-5-7 “That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410291.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Addition to Park Referral**

BC Parks Mount Pope Park  
Additions Referral  
Electoral Area C (Fort St. James  
Rural) Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-5-8 1. “That the Board receive the written comments regarding BC Parks Mount Pope Park Additions Referral on the Supplementary Agenda.  
2. That the comment sheet be provided to BC Parks as the Regional District’s comments on the referral regarding BC Parks Mount Pope Park additions .”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Growing Communities Fund Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-5-11 “That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officers Growing Communities Fund memorandum including the Supplementary Agenda Growing Communities Fund memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Future consideration of funding allocation
- Completion of the RDBN Strategic Plan to guide funding.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

CN Vegetation Control  
Activities 2023

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-12

"That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture  
Coordinators' CN Vegetation Control Activities 2023  
memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

BC Hydro – Prince George to  
Glenannan Transmission  
Project Open House

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-5-13

"That the Board receive the correspondence from BC Hydro  
regarding the Prince George to Glenannan Transmission  
Project Open House."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Hydro – North Coast  
Electrification Information  
Session

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-14

"That the Board receive the correspondence from BC Hydro  
regarding North Coast Electrification Information Session."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Emergency  
Management and Climate  
Readiness-Emergency  
Preparedness and Resources

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-5-15

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the  
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness –  
Emergency Preparedness and Resources."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will follow-up regarding the Community Emergency  
Preparedness Fund for Public Notification and Evacuation  
Route Planning regarding the RDBN Evacuation Route  
Planning and Ulkatcho First Nation's efforts for an evacuation  
Route north of Anahim Lake.

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

Ministry of Health – Response to RDBN Letter-Provincial Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Professionals Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-16

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Health – Response to RDBN Letter – Provincial Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Professionals.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

#### **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness-Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide released in December 2022 Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-5-15

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide released in December 2022.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills -StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-16

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills – StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

### **Office of the Seniors Advocate BC - Visit to the Region**

Discussion took place regarding Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors Advocate's visit to Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake and Smithers. The following was brought forward:

- Significant cost of home care for one hour per day support
- Due to the high-cost for support seniors are not applying for care and are having to enter into acute care or long term care facilities
- Majority of seniors are living below poverty rates
- Alberta and Ontario Governments provide funding for home support services
- Office of the Seniors Advocate BC is lobbying the BC Government for change
- Need for northern communities to advocate
- Workforce challenges for homecare workers due to wages
- Possible solutions – building seniors living complex's to assist with the ability for seniors to remain in their homes longer
- Potential options to operate the Better at Home Program
- Waiting lists for long-term care facilities
  - o Town of Smithers survey regarding accessibility asked "What are 2 issues?"
    - Infrastructure
    - Attitude – are seniors and those with disabilities welcome
- UBCM Resolutions regarding home care
- Inviting Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors Advocate as a delegation to the Board.

### **Sawmill Curtailments**

Director Moutray brought forward concerns regarding sawmill curtailments taking place.

### **Town of Smithers Advanced Screening of *The Mother***

Director Atrill commented that the Town of Smithers has been provided the opportunity to have an advanced screening of the movie *The Mother*, which was filmed in Smithers.

**Break for lunch at 12:16 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

**DELEGATION BESWICK HILDEBRANDT LUND CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS - 1:00 pm Taylor Turkington, CPA RE: 2022 Audit**

Chair Parker welcomed Taylor Turkington, CPA, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund.

Mr. Turkington provided an overview of the RDBN Financial Statements for December 31, 2022.

- Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements
- Independent Auditor's Report
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Schedule 1 – Schedule of Expenses by Object
- Schedule 2 – Schedule of Continuity of Reserve Funds
- Schedule 3 – Statement of Tangible Capital Assets
- Schedule 4 – Segmented Disclosure

The following was discussed:

- Unfunded landfill liability - Landfill closure accruals – strategically allocating funds for future closure works
- Tangible Capital Assets
  - o Environmental Services capital projects and Cycle 16 Trail Works
- Directors' remuneration
- Bad debts.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

2022 Financial Statements  
and Audit Report

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-5-10

"That the Board accept and authorize the Chair and the Chief Financial Officer to sign the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2022.

And, that the Year End Audit Findings Report to the Board be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The following was discussed:

- o Sick leave and vacation paid
- o Retirement accrual
- o Submitting the Financial Reports to the Province
  - Review of the Northern Capital Planning Grant and COVID-19 Grant funding
- o GICs (Guaranteed Investment Certificates).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed Regulation and Licencing Requirements**

Director Lambert brought forward the March 9<sup>th</sup> Rural/ Agriculture Committee Meeting discussion regarding the veterinary drug and medicated feed regulation and licencing requirements. Director Moon noted that she has been researching the issue and mentioned that Four Rivers Co-op in Vanderhoof does have licencing for BC but it is extremely restricted. Comments were made regarding the danger to farm animals that can't be treated for various illnesses due to the lack of access to veterinarians and medication. Discussion took place regarding advocating the Province at the 2023 UBCM Conference and bringing forward the issue to the BC SPCA.

Chair Parker and CAO Helgesen are meeting with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Cariboo Regional District and will bring forward the issue.

## **IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-5-25

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

- Labour relations
- Strategic Planning
- Tenas Coal Project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-26

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 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