

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 13**

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Shane Brienen – arrived at 10:04 a.m.  
Martin Elphee  
Leroy Dekens  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson – via Zoom  
Sarrah Storey  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 10:57 a.m., left at 12:15 p.m.  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 10:57 a.m., left at 12:15 p.m.  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 2:11 p.m.  
Daryn Larson, Building Inspector – left at 10:08 a.m.  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:08 a.m., returned at 10:44 a.m., left at 11:03 a.m., returned at 1:15 p.m., left at 2:11 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services  
Chris Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator– arrived at 1:15 p.m., left at 2:11 p.m.  
Grace Zayac, Emergency Management Technician – arrived at 1:15 p.m., left at 2:11 p.m.

Others Karla Mitchell, Superintendent, School District 91 Nechako Lakes – left at 10:45 a.m.  
Sharon Vare, Chinook Emergency Response Society – arrived at 1:18 p.m., left at 2:10 p.m.  
Amy Wainwright, Planner, Village of Burns Lake – left at 10:55 a.m.  
Scott Zayac, Chinook Emergency Response Society – arrived at 11:08 a.m., left at 2:10 p.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News – arrived at 10:02 a.m.

**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 Wiebe

2023-13-1 “That the Board Meeting Agenda of December 14, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes November 24, 2023 Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-13-2 “That the Board Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2023 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**STAFF INTRODUCTION** Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning introduced Daryn Larson, Building Inspector.

**DELEGATION**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES – Karla Mitchell, Superintendent Re: Update**

Chair Parker welcomed Karla Mitchell, Superintendent, School District 91 Nechako Lakes.

Ms. Mitchell provided a PowerPoint presentation.

**School District 91 Nechako Lakes**

- What does the Board/Superintendent do?
- A bit about Nechako Lakes School District
- Unceded Ancestral Territory of 14 First Nations
- About SD 91
- Who SD 91 Serve
- Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025
- Highlights of the Workplan
  - o Goal 1 Honour Diversity
  - o Goal 2 Engage our Workforce
  - o Goal 3 Create Student Success
  - o Goal 4 Enhance Connections
- Evidence of Student Learning
- Current Landscape.

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

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES – Karla Mitchell, Superintendent Re: Update (Cont'd)**

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Parents ability to withdraw their children from the Sexual, Orientation, Gender Identification (SOGI) education program.
  - o Ms. Mitchell indicated that parents have the option to opt out of participating in sexual health education. She noted that SOGI is inclusivity everyday, and teachers utilize age-appropriate resources to create an environment of belonging daily
- Busing rural private school students
  - o Ms. Mitchell will connect with Director Moon to discuss further
- Career and Skills Department
  - o Prepares students for current and upcoming opportunities.
    - Mining
      - Ms. Mitchell is a new member of the Blackwater Gold Community Liaison Committee
      - Looking for opportunities
    - o Operation Heavy Duty
    - o Programming rotates depending on student interests
- EBUS learning and enrollment
- SD 91 advertising for teaching positions and the offer of signing bonuses in 2023
- SD 91 is part of a northern recruitment and retention pilot project
  - o SD 91 was a part of the provincial pilot incentive program
  - o Actively trying to hire people
  - o 2024 incentives have been released earlier than 2023 and SD 91 has applied
- Federal Government sponsored recruitment program is being made available to recruit and hire French teachers
- Recruiting in January to hire in June
- Teachers providing class instruction for courses outside their comfort zone
  - o At times teachers use researched best practices to provide programs
  - o Teachers are active in professional learning
- Want and wish of SD 91 is that children are having rich learning experiences in classrooms
- RDBN support for attraction and recruitment
  - o Websites and social media are primary tools used by SD91 to showcase the region and member municipalities
    - Keeping websites and social media posts up-to-date allows SD91 to use the information as a tool to showcase the rich diversity of the region.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Mitchell for attending the meeting.

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

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

Rezoning Application  
RZ A-04-23 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Report Bylaw No. 2023  
-Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural)

Due to Bill 44, 2023: Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act recently implemented by the province staff will bring forward the application at the January 25, 2024 Board meeting for consideration.

### **Temporary Use Permit**

Temporary Use Permit  
B-01-23 -Electoral Area B  
(Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-13-3

1. "That the Board receive the Supplementary Agenda item Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural).
2. That the Board approve the issuance of TUP B-01-23 to allow short-term accommodation at 1675 Gowan Road.
3. That the Board direct staff to issue the TUP when staff have received confirmation smoke detectors have been installed as required under the B.C. Building Code."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Land Referrals**

Land Referral No. 6409451  
Electoral Area B (Burns Lake  
Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-13-4

"That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 6409451."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Pipeline Referrals**

Coastal GasLink Clear Creek Compressor Station Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Moutray

2023-13-5 "That the comment sheet be provided to the British Columbia Energy Regulator and Coastal GasLink as the Regional District's comments regarding the proposed Clear Creek Compressor Station."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Coastal GasLink Segundo Lake Compressor Station Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-13-6 "That the attached comment sheet be provided to the British Columbia Energy Regulator and Coastal GasLink as the Regional District's comments regarding the proposed Segundo Lake Compressor Station."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **PARKS AND TRAILS**

Cycle 16 Trail Phase 3 Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-13-7 "That the Board endorse the submission of Licence of Occupation application to the Province for a portion of Phase 3 of the Cycle 16 Trail proposed to be located on Section 4, Township 4, Range 5 Coast District."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Knockholt Landfill Hours of Operation – Update Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Brien

2023-13-8 "That the Board receive the Director of Environmental Services' Knockholt Landfill Hours of Operation – Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### Metal Salvage Pilot-2024

The following was discussed:

- Move forward with up to \$50,000 in the budget to implement 2024 Metal Pilot Project at the Burns Lake Transfer Station
- Option 1
- 3-6 months to implement the pilot project
- Staff bring forward outline moving forward
- Tax rate implications of a \$50,000 budget increase
- Utilizing Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) allocation of the Canada Community Building Fund BC if necessary
- Salvaging of high value metals
  - o Past issues and challenges regarding metal salvaging
- Possible infrastructure needs
  - o Need and feasibility of a concrete slab at Knockholt Landfill
    - Knockholt Landfill substructure
- Avoid implementation of permanent infrastructure
- Current reuse system has concrete barrier bays for:
  - o Bikes, lawnmowers, etc
  - o Intact reusable items
- The public managing reuse items and staff managing reuse bays
  - o Staff currently move items from the salvage metal pile to the reuse bays if applicable
  - o Staff and public education
    - Important to provide metal reuse processes and procedures to address safety concerns
- Capacity and space to build out the reuse bays
- Staff intends to move forward with education for all RDBN sites
- Expanding the Pilot Project across the region
- Reuse vs. salvage
  - o Utilizing specific terminology around reuse and salvage
- Metal Salvaging Ban on main metal pile to remain in place
- Budget allocation of up to \$50,000 to provide staff the ability to expand reuse bays if necessary and public education
- Rescinding Motion 2023-4-12
- Staff experience with current reuse bays and recycling requires a small amount of staff time
  - o Staff does not foresee the need for additional staff time
  - o Staff are currently utilizing reuse bays and no additional staff is required
  - o Ensuring that additional staff time is not required
- Pilot Project at Burns Lake Transfer Station will allow staff to develop formal guidelines for metal reuse and metal salvage before potential implementation at all RDBN Transfer Station Sites
- Staff to report back to the Board in six months.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (CONT'D)**

Metal Salvage Pilot 2024

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-13-9

"That the Board allocate up to \$50,000 in the 2024 Budget for expanding the Metal Reuse Bays Pilot Project at the Burns Lake Transfer Station."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED

Metal Salvage Pilot 2024  
Motion Rescind – 2023-4-12

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-13-10

"That the Board rescind Motion 2023-4-12 :  
"That the Board direct staff to proceed with the metal salvage pilot program at the Burns Lake Transfer Station as originally outlined; and further, that the program be implemented prior to the end of the 2023 fiscal year."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Break for lunch at 12:15 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:14 p.m.**

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Electoral Area Directors (EAD) Forum – January 30-31, 2024  
and Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) Forum – January 31-February 2, 2024  
in Richmond, B.C.

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-13-11

"That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Electoral Area Directors Forum and/or the LGLA Forum from January 30 to February 2, 2024 in Richmond, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Racquet Courts User Fee Bylaw Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-13-12

"That Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Racquet Courts User Fee Bylaw No. 2027, 2023 be given first, second, third reading, and adoption this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

Further, that Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Racquet Courts User Fee Repeal Bylaw No. 2028, 2023 be given first, second, third reading, and adoption this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2023 Budget Amendment

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-13-13

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2024, 2023" be given first, second, third reading, and adoption this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023."

(All/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Budget Process 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-13-14

"That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Budget Process 2024 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community -Building Fund BC - Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Nechako Environment & Water Stewardship Society - Fort Fraser Boat Launch Project

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-13-15

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$15,000 of Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Lake Rural) allocation monies to the Nechako Environment & Water Stewardship Society for a Recreation Infrastructure project at the Fort Fraser Boat Launch, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)



**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$15,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Development Initiative Trust Application Local Government Internship Program

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-13-16

"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.

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

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Development Initiative Trust Application Northern Community Transportation Booster

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-13-17

"That the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust for a grant of up to \$25,000 to the Northern Community Transportation Booster Program."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter of Support Request -Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-13-18

"That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club for its Rural Economic Development Infrastructure Program application for the Morice Mountain Ski Trail Upgrade Project."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

### Letter of Support Request -District of Vanderhoof

Moved by Director Moutray  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-13-19

"That the Board provide a Letter of Support to the District of Vanderhoof for its British Columbia Air Access Program application for continued improvements to the Vanderhoof Airport."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Royal Assent given to the Emergency and Disaster Management Act

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-13-20

"That the Board submit a letter to the Premier and Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness requesting the creation of a regional district working group to codevelop regulations under the *Emergency & Disaster Management Act* as they pertain to regional districts. Further that the Board call on the Province to provide a "What We Heard Report" following consultation on the Regulation Discussion Papers to demonstrate that the Province is hearing the concerns of regional districts."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Director Storey indicated she had discussions with Minister Ma regarding additional work being downloaded to regional districts without additional funding
- Concerns that under *Emergency & Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* local authorities will have the power to order business to close during emergencies
- Concerns regarding jail time and fines for non-compliance
- Establishing a working group
- Since 2015 the RDBN has provided input with very little taken into consideration
- Concerns about the *EDMA* review process
- First Nations consultation
  - First Nations working group worked with the Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness
  - First Nations within the RDBN have expressed the process currently utilized by the RDBN to consult First Nations works well and capacity is a concern

- Federal Government oversees First Nations Communities
- Province needs to bring all stakeholders to the table
- Lack of extensive mapping of First Nations Territories
- State of Local Emergency (SoLE) Powers
  - Requirements of Local Governments to demonstrate clear consultation consent from First Nations
  - Reporting required by local governments regarding First Nations consultation
- Province consulted with First Nations to move the Act forward and the lack of consultation and recognition of feedback by local governments
- Province expectation is First Nations and local governments must work together
- Advocating the Province regarding the implications of the Act and future regulations to local government and its residents
- Impacts to local community societies such as Chinook Emergency Response Society.

Emergency and Disaster  
Management Act Regulations  
Submission

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-13-21

"That the Board submit the comments and concerns regarding the future *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* Regulations to modernizeEM@gov.bc.ca.

Further, that the recommendations be shared with member municipalities and First Nations within the geographic area of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and all regional districts in the province."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- RDBN consultation with other regional districts
  - Chair Parker met with the Cariboo Regional District and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George during the 2023 UBCM Conference and they indicated their opposition and similar concerns
  - Bringing forward concerns to UBCM and NCLGA

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Multijurisdictional emergency management organizations (MJEMO)
- Staff will bring forward the letter for Board consideration in January 2024.

RDBN Committee  
Appointments for 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-13-22

"That the Board ratify the Committee Appointments for 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Committee  
Appointments for 2024

Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-13-23

"That the Board ratify the following Appointments for 2024:

Bankers:

Bulkley Valley Credit Union

Lawyers:

Stewart McDannold Stuart, Victoria, B.C.

Young Anderson, Vancouver, B.C.

Carvello Law Corp., Victoria, B.C.

Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP, Vancouver, B.C.

Election Officers:

Cheryl Anderson, Chief Election Officer

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Chief Election Officer

Signing Authority:

Any two (2) of:

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson

Director from Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Director from Village of Burns Lake

Chief Administrative Officer

Chief Financial Officer

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 the November 23, 2023 In-Camera Meeting Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-13-24

"That the Board receive the following Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from the November 23, 2023 In-Camera Meeting:

**RDBN Bereavement Policy**

I.C.2023-15-5 "That the Board approve the amended Bereavement Leave Policy."

**RDBN Sick & Family Leave Policy**

I.C.2023-15-6 "That the Board approve the amended Sick and Family Leave Policy."

**Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Membership**

I.C.2023-15-7 "That the Board approve new members of the Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee as follows:

- 1) Kathleen Bedard, Granisle
- 2) Patricia Dunkley, Fort St. James."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

Ministry of Municipal Affairs -UBCM Follow-up Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-13-25

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding UBCM Follow-up."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Kevin Falcon, Leader of the Official Opposition, BC United Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Moon

2023-13-26

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from Kevin Falcon, Leader of the Official Opposition, BC United regarding UBCM Follow-up."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Union of B.C Municipalities Moved by Director Dekens  
-Canada Community - Building Seconded by Director Elphee  
Fund: Second Community  
Works Fund Payment for  
2023/2024

2023-13-27

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities – Canada Community – Building Fund: Second Community Works Fund Payment for 2023/2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

#### **Telecommunications Referral**

Rogers W2262 Tchesinkut Moved by Director Lambert  
Lake – Electoral Area E Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson  
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

2023-13-28

"That the Board direct staff to send a letter stating that the RDBN has no objections to the proposed telecommunication tower location."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Village of Granisle - Update Director McGuire noted the following:

- Investment Plan Contract for the mall
- Granisle Profile on the RDBN website
  - Staff will follow-up with Director McGuire
- Community Christmas Decorating Contest
  - Judging will take place December 16 and 17.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/  
Telkwa Rural)-Update Director Stoltenberg mentioned that the Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club is working with landowners to plant dogwoods to address food scarcity and help enhance wildlife.

Electoral Area G (Houston/  
Granisle) – Update Director Newell attended the first meeting of the Wet'suwet'en's Morice River Working Group in November.

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

Village of Burns Lake – Update Director Wiebe commented that Burns Lake officially celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 6, 2023. The community had the unveiling of the painting commemorating the event.

Director Wiebe reported that the Village of Burns Lake received notification today that their chiller part for the Tom Forsythe Arena has been delayed. The Arena will potentially open February 2024.

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

Director Greenaway in her role as NCLGA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President attended a meeting with the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and brought forward the Highway 16 Transit and that a number of smaller communities are unable to access the services.

Director Greenaway also attended the following:

- Two Bulkley Nechako Joint Accessibility Committee Meetings
  - Inaugural meeting
  - Brainstorming meeting
- Fort St. James Food Drive
  - 125 applications
- Stuart Lake Extreme Shelter Society
  - Shelter will open January 2024.

District of Houston – Update Director Brienon noted concerns regarding new highway haul truck drivers and some of the accidents that have occurred recently near Houston. He also noted that the lines on Highway 16 were not repainted this year or the paint has already worn off. Director Brienon spoke of following up with the issue in 2024.

### Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill provided the following update;

- Smithers Airport will have two flights a day starting in January 2024
- Smithers Civic Centre Arena has been repaired and reopened
- Received Northern Development Initiative Trust Funding to hire a second Bylaw Officer
- 2024 Budget Process
  - Wastewater Plant Upgrades
- Light and Truck Parade will take place December 23, 2023
- New CAO will start January 2024.
- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) Steering Committee will meet January 12, 2024 in Terrace to prepare for the BC Natural Resources Forum January 16-18, 2024 in Prince George, B.C.

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

### District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee mentioned the following:

- Introductory meeting with FPX Nickel regarding its Decar Property
  - Approximately two years from starting its Environmental Assessment process
- Attended the third Council to Council Meeting with Nak'azdli Whut'en
- Hired a new Chief Administrative Officer and Economic Development Officer and in the process of interviewing for a new Corporate Officer.

### Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update

Director Moon provided the following update:

- Attended the Sinkut Mountain Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting and there were a number of younger people in attendance
- Grizzly concerns in the Nechako Valley
- Been reaching out to community members to discuss irrigation needs
- Continue to receive letters from Cluculz Lake residents regarding dog concerns
  - Will bring forward the issue for discussion in January 2024
- Received a number of grant in aid applications due to the cancellation of the Nechako Valley Exhibition due to wildfires in 2023.

### Village of Telkwa – Update

Director Dekens noted that the Village of Telkwa waterline project is complete and the Village has started its 2024 Budget process. He also mentioned that the Telkwa Festive Craft Market took place December 9<sup>th</sup> and was well attended.

### Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update

Director Riis-Christianson noted he is seeking clarification from Telus regarding future projects in the region.

### Village of Fraser Lake – Update

Director Storey noted the following:

- Rod Holland is retiring and the new CAO starts December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Approved Housing Needs Report at the December 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- Working on desludging issues in Aerators
- North Central Local Government Association
  - Nominations for NCLGA Board of Directors deadline is April 3, 2024
  - Aquaculture Committee
  - Website redesign in progress
  - New executive director in the future
  - Budget updates and 2024 NCLGA AGM and Conference.



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

Chair Parker – Update

Director Parker provided the following update:

- Veterinarian Shortage Working Group met with Theresa Burns, Chief Veterinarian, Province of B.C. and Mark Barnes, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, UNBC, and Minister of Agriculture Staff and Policy Writer on December 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Discussed
    - Bursaries
    - Work Placement during Practicums similar to UNBC’s Nursing Program
- Attended the Fraser Lake Craft Fair which had a Record number of booths
- Attended the Fraser Lake Christmas Parade and the Vanderhoof Parade of Lights showcasing amazing community spirit
- Review of 2023 will be brought forward in early 2024 for discussion.

Directors Newell and McGuire mentioned that they had purchased Director Riis-Christianson’s book and look forward to Director Riis-Christianson signing the book for them.

Chair Parker and the Board of Directors thanked staff for their work in 2023 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Dekens  
Seconded by Director Brienens

2023-13-29

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-13-30

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:49 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