

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 3

Thursday, March 23, 2023

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom
Shane Brienen
Leroy Dekens – left at 11:06 a.m., returned at 11:14 a.m.
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey- arrived at 10:06 a.m.
Henry Wiebe

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Steve Davis, Building Inspector – arrived at 12:02 p.m., left at 12:06 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – via Zoom – left at 12:06 p.m., returned in person at 12:45 p.m., left at 1:00 p.m.
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 1:00 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 12:06 p.m., returned at 1:08 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director – Omineca Region, Ministry of Forests – left at 11:23 a.m.
Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests – via Zoom – left at 11:23 a.m.
Trevor Krisher, Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)
Albert Nussbaum, Executive Director, Deputy Chief Forester, Office of the Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests – via Zoom – left at 11:00 a.m.
Yvonne Parkinson, North Area Old Growth Lead, Ministry of Forests – left at 11:23 a.m.

Media Frank Peebles, LD News – arrived at 10:19 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER

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

STAFF RECOGNITION

Chair Parker expressed his condolences regarding the passing of staff member Ken Heer, Fort St. James Transfer Station/Recycling Depot Attendant.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-3-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of March 23, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-3-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
-March 9, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-3-3

"That the Board receive the following Committee Meeting Minutes:

-Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

- March 9, 2023

-Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes

- March 9, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS - Albert Nussbaum, Executive Director, Deputy Chief Forester, Office of the Chief Forester, Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director – Omineca Region, Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Yvonne Parkinson, North Area Old Growth Lead RE: Old Growth Deferral and Regional Concerns – Follow-up from 2022 UBCM Minister Conroy Meeting Commitment

Chair Parker welcomed Albert Nussbaum, Executive Director, Deputy Chief Forester, Office of the Chief Forester, Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director – Omineca Region, Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District, Yvonne Parkinson, North Area Old Growth Lead, Ministry of Forests.

Mses. Borth and Parkinson provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Ministry of Forests Update

- Introductions
- Ministry of Forests Overview
- Old Growth
 - o Paradigm shift
 - o Required conditions for change
 - o Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework
 - o Regional Engagement Workshops
- Operational Issues
 - o Forest Stewardship Plan amendments
 - o Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) – Apportionment of the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC)
 - o Other issues to discuss
- Salvage of Burnt Timber
- BC Timber Sales.

The following was discussed:

- Changing priorities
- CANFOR – Forest Stewardship Amendment to its Multi-District Forest Stewardship Plan
- Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) – Apportionment of the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC)
 - o Work in progress
 - o Expect Minister of Forests decision in the future
 - o Apportionment decision independent of Old Growth Deferral
 - o Lakes Resiliency Project
 - Collaborative Process
 - Stakeholder Group - First Nations, industry, range tenures, local government
 - Forest Landscape Plan will replace Forest Stewardship Plan
 - May be some impacts to available volume if a new AAC is required
 - Not dependent on old growth – awareness of the potential impact in the future

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

- AACs are completed every 10 years
 - o Some take longer due to a number of considerations
 - o Ministry is working to address the AAC's that have reached their 10 year deadlines
 - o A Monitoring program is in place
 - o Ministry avoids speculation of governmental land use decisions
- Collaboration with other Ministries
- Local Government representatives the first line for constituents – need good communication and understanding
- Understanding of the Federal Government's 30 by 30 plan to conserve 30 percent of Canada's land and water by 2030
 - o Concerns regarding potential impacts
- Old Growth Deferral
 - o Inaccurate inventories
 - Ministry of Forests recently made an investment in improving inventories
 - Utilizing new technology
 - Provincial Government has yet to fund LIDAR technology
 - Local companies have conducted some LIDAR scans of areas
 - o Local government consultation is needed
 - o Regional sessions being planned
 - Various stakeholders are invited
 - o Additional sessions for local governments through the Union of B.C. Municipalities
 - Session is scheduled at the same time as the 2023 BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) Convention
 - o Old growth impacts to grazing leases
 - Deferral areas will impact grazing leases
 - Impact to Agriculture sector
 - Forestry/Agriculture are intertwined
 - Agriculture needs to be considered when deciding old growth deferral areas
 - o Concerns regarding potential impacts
 - o Finding a balance
 - Differences between northern B.C. and southern B.C.
 - o Need to know what the Province's assistance for community transitions will be
- Ensuring that everyone is working together for a healthier forest ecosystem and strengthening of communities
- Ministry of Forests is clearly hearing the need for local input and initiatives in the decision making process
- Local understanding of impacts of mill closures to communities
 - o Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) meeting with District of Houston regarding the recent mill closure
- The Province's "A New Future for Old Forests" Recommendation 14 Transition Support for Communities

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

- Ministry of Forests indicated they recognized the need for:
 - o An overview of the old growth inventory and that current mapping is inadequate
 - o Transition plans for communities
 - o Local governments to be a voice for communities
- Timeline of Old Growth Deferral review process and Action Plan implementation
- Salvage Burnt Timber
 - o Salvaging is situationally specific
 - Ms. Eagles will follow-up with Director Lambert to provide additional information
- BC Timber Sales
 - o MoF recognizes and acknowledges the need to have timber sales
 - o Hoping to see progress soon
- BC Wildfire Liaison in the RDBN EOC during wildfire events
 - o Ms. Borth will bring forward the information to her management team
- Quarterly updates from Ministry of Forests.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Nussbaum, Mses. Borth, Eagles and Parkinson for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Reading

Building Bylaw Amendment for Energy Conservation Step Code Prescriptive Option Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway
-1st, 2nd, and 3rd Readings of Building Bylaw Amendment No. 1995, 2023

2023-3-4

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Building Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 1995, 2023 be given first, second and third reading this 23rd day of March, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Bylaw applies to rural areas and information has been shared with member municipalities
- Cultural building practices e.g. log home construction
 - Province did make some concessions for log home construction
 - Building Inspection will be attending training in regard to the Province's requirements
- Challenges regarding the Province providing local governments two months' notice to amend their Building Bylaws.

Bylaw 3rd Reading and Adoption

Rezoning Application
RZ A-02-22 – 3rd Reading and
Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw
No. 1993, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienen

2023-3-5

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1993, 2023.

2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1993, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 23rd day of March 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER ITEMS

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
Electoral Area B (Burns Lake
Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-3-6

"That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning
Commission Unofficial
Minutes Electoral Area E
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-3-7

"That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Unofficial Minutes for Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning
Commission
Minutes Electoral Area C
(Fort St. James Rural)

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-3-8

"That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Other Items

Recent ALR Applications

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-3-9

"That the Board receive the Planning Technician's Recent ALR Applications memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Agricultural Land Commission decision making process
- The Board's considerations of local values and recommendations
- Under legislation the ALC has defined requirements when reviewing an application
- Challenges regarding lobbying for local government input in the decision-making process and staff time
- Impacts and importance of ALC decision
- Board orientation regarding the Agricultural Land Reserve and Agricultural Land Commission and its process
- Submitting a video to the ALC providing comments regarding applications
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries allowance of a second residence on certain Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Parcels and the challenges regarding the restrictions associated with the limited amount of soil that is allowed to be disturbed
- Challenges of connecting with ALC staff
- Bringing forward concerns at the 2023 Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention Minister meetings.

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Response Letter

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-3-10

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Response Letter memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Highway 35 Multi-use Trail Conceptual Design Study

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-3-11

"That the Board authorize staff to enter a contract with WSP Canada Inc. for the completion of a Highway 35 Multi-use Trail Conceptual Design Study."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUILDING INSPECTION

Section 57 Notice on Title 405 Raymond Rd. - Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-3-12

1. "That the Board receive the property owners request for deferral on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the Community Charter relating to land legally described as Lot 2, Section 5, Township 4, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 7322 (405 Raymond Road)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for Lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Committee Meeting Recommendations -March 9, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

2023-3-13

"That the Board approve the March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Recommendations 1 through 6 as written:

Committee of the Whole – March 9, 2023

Recommendation 1:

Re: North Central Local Government Association Resolutions

"That the Board approve the following resolutions for consideration at the NCLGA Convention: 1. Healthcare Worker Shortage 2. Building Bylaw Enforcement 3. Clean

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Transportation Action Plan for Rural and Northern Communities.”

Recommendation 2:

Re: RDBN Draft Letter – Provincial Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Professionals

“That the Board approve and send the RDBN Letter – Provincial Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Professionals to the Honourable David Eby, Premier, The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, Dr. Henry, Provincial Health Officer and Northern Health.”

Recommendation 3:

Re: Five Year Financial Plan

“That the local fire services that are provided by member municipalities, the Vanderhoof Pool Services, and the Smithers Recreation and Culture Service be included in the 2023 Five Year Financial Plan.”

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting – March 9, 2023

Recommendation 4:

Re: BC Rural Center “Keeping it Rural” Conference June 1-2, 2023 in Kelowna

“That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the 2023 Keeping it Rural Conference June 1-2, 2023, in Kelowna, BC.”

Recommendation 5:

Re: Northwest Trade Expo May 5-6 in Smithers

“That the Board approve spending \$550 from Rural Government for the rental of an RDBN booth at the Northwest Trade Expo.”

Recommendation 6:

Re: Veterinary Drug Regulations Research

“That the Board direct staff to further investigate the veterinary drug and medicated feed regulation and licencing requirements.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Five Year Financial Plan

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-3-14

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1994, 2023 be given third reading as amended and adoption this 23rd day of March, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Provincial Nominee Program - Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot Participation

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-3-15

"That the Board approve resuming participation in the BC Provincial Nominee Program – Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community-Building Fund BC – Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Gerow Island Road Street Lightning Project

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-3-16

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$15,000 of Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Local Roads Infrastructure project and further,

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Town of Smithers
-Community Emergency
Preparedness Fund Disaster
Risk Reduction – Climate
Adaptation (Category 1)
Application

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-3-17

“That the Board approve the Town of Smithers to apply for, receive, and manage grant funding from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation Grant (Category 1) on behalf of the Regional District for the Airport South Slope Monitoring Project.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of BC Municipalities
-Community Emergency
Preparedness Fund
-Emergency Operations Centre
Application

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Brienens

2023-3-18

“That the Board supports the submission of an application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Operations Centre for the 2023 funding stream. Further, that the Board authorize 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.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Growing Opportunities
Newsletter Update

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-3-19

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Beswick Hildebrandt Lund
Chartered Professional
Accountants – RDBN Audit
Planning

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienens

2023-3-20

“That the Board receive the correspondence from Beswick Hildebrandt Lund, Chartered Professional Accountants regarding the RDBN Audit Planning.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CANFOR – Forest Stewardship
Amendment to its Multi-
District Forest Stewardship Plan

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-3-21

“That the Board receive the correspondence from CANFOR regarding its Forest Stewardship Amendment to its Multi-District Forest Stewardship Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community Energy
Association – Charge North
-Budget Update and
Opportunity to Install
Additional Level 2 EV Charging
Stations

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-3-22

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Community Energy Association – Charge North regarding its Budget Update and Opportunity to Install Additional Level 2 EV Charging Stations.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway spoke of the opportunity to install an EV charging station in Electoral Area C. Staff will follow up.

Ministry of Forests – Multi-
Sectional Regional Workshop
on Implementing Old Growth
Strategic Review

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-3-23

“That the Board authorize the Rural Directors attendance to a Multi-Sectional Regional Workshop on Implementing Old Growth Strategic Review.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Forests – Multi-
Sectional Regional Workshop
on Implementing Old Growth
Strategic Review Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-3-24

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Forests regarding Multi-sectional Regional Workshop on Implementing Old Growth Strategic Review.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Municipal Affairs
-BC Building Stronger
Communities with \$1 Billion
Growing Communities Fund Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-3-24

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding the BC Building Stronger Communities with \$1 Billion Growing Communities Fund; and further, that the letter on the Supplementary agenda regarding the RDBN Allocation be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Public Safety
and Solicitor General
-Response to RDBN Letter to
Premier Eby – Government of
Canada’s Amendments to the
Firearms Act

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-3-25

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in Response to RDBN Letter to Premier Eby – Government of Canada’s Amendments to the *Firearms Act*.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

North Central Local
Government Association
-NCLGA Member Notice:
Proposed Annual Membership
Fee Increase

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-3-26

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the North Central Local Government Association – NCLGA Member Notice: Proposed Annual Membership Fee Increase."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the importance of the work that the NCLGA conducts and the increase in membership fees not being sustainable for the long term. Hosting and host communities of the NCLGA AGM was discussed.

North Central Local
Government Association
-Call for Nominations for
Positions on the NCLGA Board
of Directors – 2023/2024

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-3-27

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the North Central Local Government Association – Call for Nominations for Positions on the NCLGA Board of Directors – 2023/2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SkeenaWild Conservation
Trust – Letter to the
Honourable Nathan Cullen,
Minister of Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship
– Cancellation of Conservation
Lands

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-3-28

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the SkeenaWild Conservation Trust – Letter to the Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – Cancellation of Conservation Lands."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board directed staff to follow-up with Minister Cullen requesting a copy of his response to the SkeenaWild Conservation Trust.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Union of B.C. Municipalities Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Provincial Response to 2022 Seconded by Director Greenaway
Resolutions – Veterinarian
Shortage

2023-3-29 "That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities regarding Provincial Response to 2022 Resolutions – Veterinarian Shortage."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle-Update Director McGuire provided the following update:
- 2023 budget process
- 58 new docks for the Marina are on order and delivery is expected at the end of March. They will be installed once the ice melts.

Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) – Update Director Stoltenberg spoke of attending the upcoming Business Forum in Telkwa – March 28-29, 2023 and Northwest Trade Expo in Smithers – May 5-6, 2023.

District of Vanderhoof-Update Director Moutray noted the District is in the midst of its Budget Process. He also attended the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) Elected Officials Series (EOS) in Prince George March 15-16, 2023. It was a good event.

Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)-Update Director Newell spoke of the Canfor Sawmill closures and concerns regarding the impact to employees and residents in the area.

Village of Burns Lake-Update Director Wiebe provided the following update:
- Continuing with the 2023 Centennial Celebration Planning
- Centennial Fishing Derby hosted by CGL raised in excess of \$120,000 for the community
- Ultrasound is available at the Lakes District Hospital on a two-week rotation
- College of New Caledonia Burns Lake Campus is offering the Licensed Practical Nursing Program.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

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

Director Greenaway spoke of the following:

- Received an invitation to participate on a Harm Reduction Committee in Fort St. James
 - Working to install three sharps bins throughout the community
- Attended first Advisory Planning Committee Meeting (APC)
- Food Security Program will be implemented soon.

District of Houston-Update

Director Brienen spoke of the following:

- Attending the LGLA EOS in Prince George
- Canfor Sawmill closure
 - Last logs will go through the mill March 31, 2023
 - Decommissioning
 - Logs remaining in the yard will be transferred to mills elsewhere
 - Impacts different throughout the community and region
 - Awareness of forestry-maintained roads and deactivations
- Job Fair at the Claude Parish Memorial Arena – April 15, 2023 -10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Town Hall Meeting will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Houston Secondary School.

Town of Smithers-Update

Director Atrill provided the following update:

- Community hosted a Fam (Familiarization) Tour for Film Location Managers
 - Expanding the diversity of the region
 - Took back a catalogue of photos for future production consideration
- Hudson Bay Mountain Resort is still open with good spring ski conditions
- Smithers Secondary School Drama Production – “Mamma Mia! It was a sell out show and additional shows were added.
- Attended the LGLA Elected Officials Series in Prince George – good session
- Town of Smithers Roads
 - Gravel on the roads from the winter is creating air quality alerts
- Town of Smithers tax increase
- Community Open House regarding Homelessness and Tent Encampment on March 27, 2023.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee spoke of:

- Sharps Program in the Community
- Logs moving out of the community to Quesnel
- Seniors Housing Complex construction moving forward
- Local contractor has started development of a new subdivision in the community
- Supporting Valemount, B.C.'s bid for Strongest Town 2023.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)-Update

Director Moon provided the following update:

- Sale prices for cattle are setting records at \$3,500 for a 2000-pound bull and 900-pound yearlings for over \$2,000 at the Vanderhoof Sale Barn
- Nechako Watershed Roundtable
 - Large Lakes Monitoring Study
 - Studying the health and fish habitat of the lakes.

Village of Telkwa-Update

Director Dekens noted the following:

- Business Forum in Telkwa – March 28-29, 2023
- Budget discussions
- Received grant for waterline upgrades – construction beginning mid April
- Discussing Block Watch Program in the community.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)-Update

Director Riis-Christianson provided the following update:

- Attended the College of New Caledonia Burns Lake Campus Open House
 - Impressed with course offerings including a new course, Introduction to Cultural Resource Management
- Meeting with Telus Representatives and have a telephone call scheduled next week to discuss building a relationship moving forward
- Asked to speak at the Broadband Conference but declined in reviewing the potential benefit to the RDBN.

Village of Fraser Lake-Update

Director Storey mentioned the following:

- UBCM Advocacy Days in April
- UBCM Old Growth Local Government Session during the COFI Convention – sent message to UBCM regarding the conflicting date
- 2023 Budget process – a lot of projects
- Reviewing applicants for Economic Development Officer Position
- Received approval for a Northern Development Initiative Trust Internship
- Paving projects – collaboration with member municipalities

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- Brought forward concerns regarding decriminalization of drugs to the Union of B.C. Municipalities
- Drone Initiative Project - Phase 1 is complete
 - Testing altitudes and weather patterns to potentially deliver medication and supplies to rural and remote areas
 - Funding for Phase 2 is being considered.

Chair Parker/Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)-Update

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Province announced today that it is permanently subsidizing seats for BC students at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)
- The Province has also indicated it is exploring other options through the University of Northern B.C.
- Economic Impact Study of Veterinary Medicine in BC is complete and will be distributed to the Board once a release date is determined.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-3-30

"That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Director Stoltenberg brought forward the importance of moving forward with the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan and public participation through the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2023-3-31

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

- Labour relations
- Cycle 16 Trail
- Boundary Re-Alignment."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienen

2023-3-32

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:55 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services