



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, March 26, 2026

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker
Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen – via Zoom
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert – via Zoom – left at 11:13
a.m. – returned at 11:25 a.m. – left at
11:45 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarra Storey – via Zoom
Henry Wiebe

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – via
Zoom
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural
Services – arrived at 11:23 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development
Services – left at 11:18 a.m.
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and
Development Services – left at 11:18 a.m.
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – left at 11:28
a.m.
Steve Davis, Building Inspector – left at 10:58 a.m.
Mike Leamont, Building Inspector – left at 10:58 a.m.

Others:

Janice La – arrived at 10:39 a.m., left at 10:58 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

March 26, 2026

2026-BM-330

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Agenda and Supplementary Agenda for March 12, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2026

2026-BM-331

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2026

2026-BM-332

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting minutes of March 12, 2026 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Building Inspection

Steve Davis, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title NOT A-03-26, 3153 Telkwa High Road – Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Chair Parker called for comments from the gallery. No comments from the gallery.

2026-BM-333

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

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 the Fractional Northeast ¼ of Section 3, Township 4, Range 5, Coast District, Except Part in District Lot 876 and Except Plan 1577 (3153 Telkwa High Road).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Steve Davis, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title NOT B-02-26, 18657 Payne Road - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Chair Parker called for comments from the gallery. No comments from the gallery.

2026-BM-334

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

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 7, District Lot 3531, Range 5, Coast District, Plan PRP10747 (18657 Payne Road).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Steve Davis, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title NOT B-03-26, 13227 Stearns Subdivision Road - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Chair Parker called for comments from the gallery. No Comments from the gallery.

2026-BM-335

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

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 1, District Lot 4157, Range 5,

Coast District, Plan PRP6730 (13227 Stearns Subdivision Road).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Mike Leamont, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title NOT B-04-26
- 14541 Highway 16 West – Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)**

Chair Parker called for comments from the gallery. No comments from the gallery.

2026-BM-336

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

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, District Lot 558, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 3927 (14541 Highway 16 West).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Directors noted the recent increase in Section 57 reports. Staff advised that higher numbers during winter months are common, as building permit activity slows and staff focus on outstanding files. Staff clarified that Section 57 notices are not enforcement actions but rather a mechanism to alert future purchasers that construction occurred without necessary permits or inspections. Staff added that significant effort is taken to achieve compliance before recommending a Section 57 Notice on Title.

Discussion took place regarding transparency, fairness, protecting future purchasers, and building bylaw enforcement options. Staff advised that enforcement activities are in accordance with Board policy and as directed by the Board. Staff noted the varying individual Board member opinions on the appropriate levels of enforcement and that staff endeavour to find the appropriate level of enforcement activity.

The Board discussed its previous UBCM resolution requesting that the province not issue electrical, gas or other permits without confirming that a required building permit has been issued. It was noted that the province did not agree to implement this process.

It was suggested that staff bring back a report including historical Section 57 information and a discussion on building bylaw enforcement options.

Bylaw for First, Second and Third Reading

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - Pump and Haul Repeal Bylaws

2026-BM-337

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Pump and Haul Local Service Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 2104, 2026 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Pump and Haul Sewage Disposal Regulation Repeal Bylaw No. 2105, 2026 be given first, second and third readings this 26th day of March, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Referrals

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Ni Ti Mountain Wind Project Preliminary Engagement

2026-BM-338

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That a letter be sent to the Ni Ti Power General Partnership, copied to the BC Energy Regulator, as outlined in the discussion section of the staff report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cameron Kral, Planner - Application to Discharge Ash onto Agricultural Lands Referral No. 412276 - Electoral Areas C (Fort St James Rural) and F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2026-BM-339

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Moon

That the comment sheet be provided to BioNorth Energy Services Ltd. as the Regional District's comments on their Application for a Permit to Discharge Ash on Agricultural Lands (Tracking Number 412276).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services- FPX Nickel Corp. Letter of Support Request

2026-BM-340

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board provide a letter of support to FPX Nickel Corporation for the Baptiste Nickel Project as discussed in the staff report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-BM-341

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board request that FPX Nickel Corporation provides a letter of support to the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) for its efforts to secure a successive revenue-sharing agreement with the Province reflecting the information that has been provided by the RBA.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development – Baptiste Nickel Project Initial Project Description

2026-BM-342

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board direct staff to do the following:

1. Copy the letter of support discussed in the staff report on pages 61-63 of the March 26, 2026 Board Agenda to the Provincial Environmental Assessment Office, and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada;
2. Include wording in the letter making it clear that the RDBN wishes to participate as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the environmental assessment process for the Baptiste Nickel Project;

3. And, outline in the letter the issues that the RDBN would like addressed during the environmental assessment process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician - Recent Agricultural Land Commission Decisions

2026-BM-343

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Planning Technician's Recent Agricultural Land Commission Decisions memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION BYLAWS

Bylaw for First, Second, Third Reading and Adoption

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Consolidation and Revision Authorization Bylaw No. 1950, 2026

2026-BM-344

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Elphee

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Consolidation and Revision Authorization Bylaw No. 1950, 2026 be given first, second, third reading and adoption this 26th day of March 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2102, 2026 for Adoption

2026-BM-345

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2102, 2026 be adopted this 26th day of March, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - March 12, 2026

2026-BM-346

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board approve recommendations 1 and 2 as written:

Rural Services Committee – March 12, 2026

Recommendation 1:

Re: Rural Resident Survey Proposal

That the Board direct staff to bring back a draft Rural Resident Survey by May 2026 for consideration.

Recommendation 2:

Re: Invitation to BC Parks Foundation

That the Board invite the BC Parks Foundation as a delegation to a future RDBN Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Rural Services
Committee Meeting Minutes - Amended - February 12, 2026
2026-BM-347**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2026 as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Items to be brought
forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting
2026-BM-348**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Corporate Services' Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Northwest Revenue Sharing (RBA) Annual
Report
2026-BM-349**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board approve the Northwest Revenue Sharing Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Corporate Operations Communication Guide
2026-BM-350**

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the updated Corporate Operations Communications Guide (V4 - March 2026).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Christopher Walker, Emergency Services Manager - Crisis Communication Plan
2026-BM-351**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board approve the new Crisis Communications Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant in Aid Policy Update
2026-BM-352**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board approve the updated Grant in Aid Policy and Grant in Aid Application documents.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant in Aid for Area A - Smithers Senior Citizens Association Dishwasher Replacement Project 2026-BM-353

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board approve allocating \$10,000 in Regional Grant in Aid from the Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) allocation to the Smithers Seniors Citizens Association for a dishwasher replacement project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant in Aid for Area A - Smithers Senior Citizens Association Entry Safety Project 2026-BM-354

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board approve allocating \$14,200 in Regional Grant in Aid from the Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) allocation to the Smithers Seniors Citizens Association for an Entry Safety project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis - Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Regional Grant in Aid for Nechako Valley Exhibition Society 2026-BM-355

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board approve allocating \$6,000 in Regional Grant in Aid, \$5,000 from the Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) allocation and \$1,000 from the Area C (Fort St. James Rural) allocation to the Nechako Valley Exhibition Society to support the purchase of an inflatable for the Family Fun Zone at the annual Exhibition.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Village of Granisle FireSmart Service Agreement
2026-BM-356**

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Board enter into an agreement with the Village of Granisle to provide staff support for the Village to develop a FireSmart program for their community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed Workshop - April 28, 2026 - Prince George, B.C.

2026-BM-357

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board authorize attendance of Chair Parker and Director Moon to attend the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed Workshop on April 28, 2026 in Prince George, B.C.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Request for Support-Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter
2026-BM-358**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board receive the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Request for Support – Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Audit Planning Letters
2026-BM-359**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Audit Planning Letters memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

**Thompson-Nicola Regional District - Resolution re: Heritage Conservation Act
2026-BM-360**

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director McGuire

That the letter from the City of Kamloops regarding the Heritage Conservation Act resolution be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding extending an invitation to Jessica Ruskin, Executive Director, Forest Resiliency and Archaeology Division, Ministry of Forests to attend an upcoming meeting to provide a presentation on the Heritage Conservation Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

**Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services – NCLGA Resolution
2026-BM-361**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Newell

That the RDBN withdraws its resolution titled Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit Program and becomes a co-sponsor of the City of Prince Rupert's Resolution titled Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Grant Benefit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle – Director McGuire

- The municipality is facing budget challenges this year due to assessment changes and several uncertainties. Staff are working to finalize the budget, which is currently expected to result in a tax increase in the range of 5–6%.
- The community continues to deal with the Do Not Consume water advisory. Additional testing is being conducted this week, with results expected by tomorrow or early next week. This will help determine the cause and circumstances behind the issue.

Village of Burns Lake – Director Wiebe

- A Community Economic Development Initiatives (CEDI) workshop was held last Friday with participation from Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation, the Regional District staff, Electoral Areas B and E Directors, and the Village of Burns Lake. The session focused on exploring partnership opportunities and collaborative approaches among the various government bodies. This was the first workshop in a series planned over the coming year. Discussion was very positive and encouraging.
- Work continues on the recreation initiatives on Gowan Road, including development related to the golf course, disc golf, and the tubing hill. Progress is ongoing.
- In the commercial subdivision, Tim Hortons and Dairy Queen are confirmed to be coming. Construction is expected to begin soon, with at least one of the developments anticipated to start this summer.

Village of Telkwa – Director Dekens

- The first home in Blissful Groves has been completed, and nearly all remaining lots in the current phase have been sold. Phase Two is planned to begin this spring.
- A water line closure is scheduled for tomorrow, with efforts underway to complete the work as quickly as possible.
- Budget development continues and remains challenging due to this year's assessment changes and the resulting financial impacts on residents.

Electoral Area C – Director Greenaway

- Recruitment and retention efforts in Fort St. James are ongoing and remain a work in progress.
- Earlier in March, visited Binche and met with CEO Dave Birdi along with the RDBN CAO, and First Nations Liaison. They toured the community and observed its growth and numerous development initiatives. The community is highly progressive, with many active and planned projects. Discussions included opportunities to support Binche's July fishing derby.

- Attended the EA Forum in Richmond and will provide a report to the Rural Committee.
- Attended an FPX Nickel meeting in Fraser Lake, which covered topics related to the mine site, including transportation access and transmission line planning. The session was informative and worthwhile.

Town of Smithers – Director Atrill

- Work is underway within the NCLGA regarding the resolutions process. Although dates were chosen specifically to allow ministers to attend on Friday, no government ministers or MLAs are currently planning to participate. The NCLGA has reached out to the Province to emphasize the importance of representation in the region.
- Minerals North will take place in Smithers from May 6–8. Registration was expanded to 450 people and is now fully sold out.
- The Town of Smithers has taken possession of the former Heartstrings building, which will become the community's new public library, supported in part by RBA funding.
- The warming shelter, funded under emergency winter shelter provisions, will close at the end of March. The community is preparing for the impacts of that closure while awaiting outcomes from the provincial Heart to Home program, with hopes for an interim solution by fall. Long-term plans include a supportive housing project expected by the end of next year.
- The mountains continue to receive heavy snowfall, providing excellent conditions for skiing and other winter sports.

Electoral Area F – Director Moon

- Attended both the EA Forum and the LGLA Forum. A major theme at LGLA focused on preparing the next group of elected officials for success, emphasizing the importance of good communication and transition planning. A panel of long-serving elected officials (20–25 years) shared valuable insights and best practices.
- Mentioned the Ministry of Agriculture 100-Year Farm Awards. Many eligible farm families were unable to complete the application, so the Historical Society agreed to assist by preparing supporting historical documentation and submitting letters to the ministry.
- Cattle prices remain high. Increased sales of heifer-breeding bulls suggest that some producers may be retaining more heifers. Encouraging younger producers to invest in herd development remains a priority. Breeding bull prices are expected to rise 25–30% over last year.

Electoral Area A – Director Stoltenberg

- Looking forward to favourable conditions for West Horizon to commence work on the bike trail.
- Flooding is not anticipated this year, as there is no ice buildup in the river, the lower-elevation snowpack is significantly reduced, and cooler temperatures are helping maintain the upper snowpack.

Electoral Area B – Director Riis-Christianson

- Also attended the CEDI meeting. The session was insightful, exploring potential opportunities for collaboration on both economic and social development projects.

District of Vanderhoof – Director Moutray

- The Regional District hosted an evacuation workshop last weekend in partnership with Search and Rescue. The RDBN is a leader in evacuation planning and is the beta-testing location for the Province's evacuation app. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of Protective Services in advancing this work.

District of Fort St. James – Director Elphee

- Attended the FPX Nickel meeting in Fraser Lake.

Village of Fraser Lake – Director Storey

- The budget has been approved with a 6% increase.
- Numerous projects are underway and progress continues.

Chair/Electoral Area D – Chair Parker

- Attended the FPX Critical Minerals meeting held in Fraser Lake. The meeting included productive discussions and a strong working relationship demonstrated throughout.
- A Zoom meeting was also held with the Village of Fraser Lake regarding the Drone Transportation Initiative – Phase Two. This phase includes expanding medication delivery from the clinic into larger areas using significantly larger drones.
- There was recent flooding-related activity in Vanderhoof, requiring staff to activate a Level 1 EOC due to a road washout. Staff responded quickly and follow-up investigations are ongoing.
- The Endako Hotel has now fully reverted to the Province. The site has been fenced, and the Province plans to move forward with demolition, as restoring or selling the building is not considered viable. The tender process is anticipated to begin on the 1st of the month.

- Anticipating a decision from the Province regarding the trailer court. Options include full remediation or alternative plans.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2026-BM-362

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2026-BM-363

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

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

- Labour Relations
- Protocol Agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-BM-364

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services