



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, April 16, 2026**

Directors Present: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg
Alternate Director Alex Kulchar

Directors Absent: Shirley Moon, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof)

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others: Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa - via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

AGENDA

April 16, 2026

2026-RSC-041

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Agenda for April 16, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2026

2026-RSC-042

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Parker

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**Cameron Kral, Planner - Crown Land Referral No. 0267730 - Electoral Area D
(Fraser Lake Rural)**

2026-RSC-043

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Referral No. 0267730.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

**Directors Greenaway and Moon - Report - Electoral Area Directors Forum -
March 10-11, 2026**

2026-RSC-044

Thursday, April 16, 2026

3 of 5

Moved by Alternate Director Kulchar

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the report from Directors Greenaway and Moon regarding the Electoral Area Directors Forum March 10-11, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway provided an overview of the key topics at the EA Forum attended in Richmond March 10-11, 2026. Director Parker spoke of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act and First Nations Consultations.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Volunteer of the Year Program Proposal

2026-RSC-045

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to complete the development of an RDBN Volunteer of the Year Program for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee discussed options for recognition of volunteers. Some options discussed were:

- Once a year event separate from a Board meeting
- Volunteer recognition at a Board meeting
- Collaborate with local Chamber of Commerce to be included at their yearly recognition dinner
- External committee to determine volunteer recognition selection
- Nomination forms on the RDBN website to provide the opportunity for peer recommendations
- Staff will incorporate ideas in the development of a program.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Non-Profit Navigator Newsletter Issues 1 (Winter) and 2 (Spring)

2026-RSC-046

Moved by Alternate Director Kulchar

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Non-Profit Navigator Newsletter Issues 1 (Winter) and 2 (Spring) memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff bringing forward tracking data for the newsletter at a future meeting was discussed along with Directors bringing forward topics of interest from constituents for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Passive Infrastructure Update

2026-RSC-047

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Passive Infrastructure Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will follow up regarding the status of Fort St. James projects nearing completion and the progress of CityWest.

VERBAL DISCUSSION

Rural Residents Survey

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services provided an overview of Directors responses to questions provided for the future creation of a Rural Residents Survey. The questions were:

- What are the top three questions you receive from your constituents?
- If you were able to tell constituents about a few of the services the RDBN provides, which three would you include?
- When you think of rural culture/lifestyle, what three words first pop to mine?
- What are the top one or two services that you find are commonly misunderstood by residents?
- What are three key decisions related to rural culture that you think the Committee may need to consider in the next 3-5 years?
- What information collected from a resident survey would be most helpful to support decision making?
- What are the top three questions you would like to see asked of your constituents?

The Committee discussed the following:

- Time frame to distribute survey
- Engagement initiatives, election and future strategic planning
- Informing other RDBN plans being renewed
- Providing education and receiving feedback.

2026-RSC-048

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' verbal report regarding the Rural Residents Survey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-RSC-049

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services