



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 30, 2026

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker
Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen - left at 12:04 p.m.
Leroy Dekens - left at 10:22 a.m., returned at 10:24 a.m., left at 11:28 a.m., returned at 11:33 a.m., left at 12:04 p.m.
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway - left at 11:53 a.m., returned at 12:00 p.m.
Clint Lambert - left at 10:08 a.m., returned at 10:18 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell - left at 11:07 a.m., returned at 11:10 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - arrived at 10:31 a.m., left at 11:34 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - left at 10:06 a.m., returned at 10:09 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services - arrived at 10:18 a.m., left at 11:37 a.m., returned at 11:45 a.m., left at 11:48 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

April 30, 2026

2026-BM-365

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Agenda and Supplementary Agenda for April 30, 2026 approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2026

2026-BM-366

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2026

2026-BM-367

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2026 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2026

2026-BM-368

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2026 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

BESWICK HILDEBRANDT LUND - Taylor Turkington, Partner Re: 2025 Audit - Via Zoom

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

Mr. Turkington provided an overview of the Audit.

- Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement
- Independent Auditor's Report
- Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Schedule of Expenses by Object
- Schedule of Continuity of Reserve Funds
- Statement of Tangible Capital Assets
- Segmented Disclosure.

The following was discussed:

- Directors remuneration 2025 Budget/Actual
- Portfolio Investments
 - Unrealized loss and market performance
- Sick leave accruals
 - Short-term disability
- Rural and Municipal Tax Requisition amendment

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Turkington for attending the meeting.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Bylaw for Third Reading

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - Rezoning Application RZ A-02-25 - Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2091, 2025

2026-BM-369

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Brienen

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2091 be given third reading this 30th day of April, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Application

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - ALR Exclusion Decision Appeal

2026-BM-370

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board not agree to participate in the applicant's appeal of the Agricultural Land Commission's decision to deny ALC Application 100803.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Referrals

Cameron Kral, Planner - Atlantica Tchesinkut Lake Wind Investigate Use License Application Notice Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

2026-BM-371

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the comment sheet be provided to Atlantica Canada Development Company Inc. in response to their Tchesinkut Lake Wind Investigative Use License Application Notice.

DEFEATED

The following was discussed:

- Cumulative impacts of all development projects throughout the region
- Concerns regarding the significant number of wind farm applications and licenses being considered throughout the region
 - Majority of current wind farm applications and licenses are for monitoring towers
 - Ni Ti Mountain Wind Project is in development and part of BC Hydro's last call for power
- Visual Quality Objectives and land size are a consideration for the area
- BC Energy Regulator process

- The need for provincial and BC Energy Regulator advocacy to address cumulative effects and ensure concerns are adequately considered
- BC Energy Regulator process if a wind farm license moves beyond the monitoring stage
 - BC Renewable Energy Projects Regulation provides dictates the process including engagement
 - Submitting comments now
 - In the past comments to the BC Energy Regulator have not received a response
 - No requirement to provide detailed application studies to local governments will be at the discretion of the proponent
 - BC Energy Regulator replacing the Environmental Assessment Office process
- Steps if License of Investigation is deemed nonviable
- Alternative power sources
- Comment sheets to include:
 - A map of all wind farm applications and licenses
 - Consideration of regional cumulative effects
 - Requests for provincial feedback on impacts
 - Emphasis on visual quality objectives
 - Clear expectations for local government input and participation
- Clarification is required from the BCER on the process and timelines, including;
 - Transition and clearly defined beginning to end process from monitoring to project approval to reduce uncertainty
 - Opportunities for consultation and engagement
 - Clearly outlined expectations for local government input and participation with the Province of B.C. and BC Energy Regulator.

2026-BM-372

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Newell

That Staff bring forward an amended Comment Sheet for Board consideration including template wording for future referrals.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Endako Weir Project, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2026-BM-373

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Newell

1. That the RDBN send a new letter to the Province restating the Board's referral comments made in their May 1, 2025 letter.
2. And, that the new letter include the additional comment that the 30 day timeframe provided is not adequate to allow residents to raise their concerns with the UFFCA and subsequently respond to the Province with unaddressed concerns.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson brought forward concerns expressed by residents:

- Potential shoreline erosion
- Long-term monitoring
- Implementation and mitigation measures should there be adverse impacts on existing infrastructure
- 30-day comment period is not sufficient.

Director Storey noted the potential impacts to the water levels near Fraser Lake. Staff reiterated the comments provided to the Province on May 1, 2025 and providing those same comments again. Chair Parker spoke of the importance of ensuring data is as accurate and scientific as possible.

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - District of Vanderhoof Temporary Use Permit Referral

2026-BM-374

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Moon

That staff inform the District of Vanderhoof that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no objection to the Temporary Use Permit application submitted by Canadian Forest Products Ltd. for a BC Hydro work camp and lay-down yard provided the applicant work with the RDBN to develop a solid waste management plan for the proposed use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

APC Minutes - Electoral Area A - April 13, 2026

2026-BM-375

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2026 be received

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REGIONAL TRANSIT

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - 2026/27 Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit

2026-BM-376

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the RDBN entering into the 2026/27 Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Increasing ridership fees
 - Village of Granisle fee increase from \$5 to \$7.50
- Collection of fees
 - Challenges
 - Education

- Ridership statistics
 - Staff to provide ridership statistics for Board review
- New Public Transit Alliance
 - Bringing communities to discuss transit
 - RDBN staff attended and will provide an update regarding the meeting
- Past RDBN correspondence to the Province and BC Transit requesting that the northern public transit service model be reevaluated.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - 2026 Metal Recycling

2026-BM-377

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board approve the award of the metal recycling contract to Richmond Steel for the purchase price of \$192.90/MT and a cost of \$4,500.00 to remove the Transtor Bins at Fraser Lake Transfer Station.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Knockholt Landfill – Geotechnical Investigation and Monitoring Well Installation

2026-BM-378

Moved by Director Brienens

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Board approve acquiring Blue Max Drilling Inc. to provide drilling services at the Knockholt Landfill for \$123,000.00 excluding tax

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION BYLAWS

Bylaw for First, Second and Third Reading

Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services and Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No.

2026-BM-379

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

1. That Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2108, 2026 be given first, second and third reading this 30th day of April, 2026.
2. Further, that the Board endorse the Alternative Approval Process to obtain the assent of the electors.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2111, 2026

2026-BM-380

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Atrill

That Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2111, 2026 be given first, second, and third reading this 30th day of April, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - RDBN Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw No. 2090, 2026 - Adoption

2026-BM-381

Moved by Director Brienens

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw No. 2090, 2026 be adopted this 30th day of April, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - April 16, 2026

2026-BM-382

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve recommendations 1 through 5 as written.

Committee of the Whole Meeting – April 16, 2026

Recommendation 1:

Re: Further Discussion with Northern Interior Rural Division of Family Practice

That the Board support further discussion with Northern Interior Rural Division of Family Practice on a health care recruitment and retention initiative.

Recommendation 2:

Re: Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project Revisions

That staff be directed to respond to the request for feedback on the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project Phase 3 Technical Policy Paper – March 2026 with the following comments:

The Province should ensure that adequate supports are in place for local governments and First Nations to administer the additional roles and responsibilities created by the proposed legislative changes before they are implemented.

The Province should refer the draft legislation and regulations to stakeholders for comment prior to adoption.

Recommendation 3:

Re: Provincial Agricultural Land Commission Staff Layoffs

That the Board write a letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier and the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food regarding provincial Agricultural Land Commission staff layoffs.

Recommendation 4:

Re: North Central Local Government Association and City of Dawson Creek – Request for Support – Improved Access to Publicly Funded Mental Health Services Resolution

That the Board co-sponsor the North Central Local Government Association and City of Dawson Creek Improved Access to Publicly Funded Mental Health Services Resolution.

Rural Services Committee Meeting – April 16, 2026

Recommendation 5:

Re: Volunteer of the Year Program Proposal

That the Board direct staff to complete the development of an RDBN Volunteer of the Year Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shari Janzen, Community Development Coordinator - Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association - Letter of Support

2026-BM-383

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board provide a letter to the Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association to support its applications for funding for the Boer Mountain Novice Downhill Trail project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shari Janzen, Community Development Coordinator - NDIT Resolution Request for Ride Burns

2026-BM-384

Moved by Director Wiebe

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from Ride Burns for the Boer Mountain Novice Downhill Trail Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Shari Janzen, Community Development Coordinator - NDIT Resolution Request for Smithers Mountain Bike Association

2026-BM-385

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Smithers Mountain Bike Association for the Bluff Enhancement Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes - Chief Financial Officer - RFP for Design Development for Phase 1 of the BV Regional Pool

2026-BM-386

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

1. That the Board receive the report on the Supplementary Agenda.
2. That the Board award RFP RDBN-BVP001-26-01 to Chernoff Thompson Architects for \$181,050.
3. And that the Board include the updated funding for this project in the next five-year financial plan amendment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Approval of Audited Financial Statements

2026-BM-387

Moved by Director Elphee

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the 2025 Audited Financial Statements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Q1 Quarterly Report

2026-BM-388

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services - Q1 Quarterly Report memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Infrastructure - Response Letter re: Nechako River and BC Natural Resources Forum

2026-BM-389

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Administrative Correspondence from the Ministry of

Infrastructure regarding the Nechako River and BC Natural Resource Forum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vanderhoof Hospice Association - Support for Accessible Hospice and Palliative Care in Vanderhoof and Fraser Lake

2026-BM-390

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board receive the Administrative Correspondence from the Vanderhoof Hospice Association regarding Support for Accessible Hospice and Palliative Care in Vanderhoof and Fraser Lake.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Moon brought forward the need to clarify the ask. Director Moutray noted he would be attending a webinar event regarding long-term care and would provide feedback. Staff to review options regarding grant in aid support. Director Moon spoke of inviting the BC Seniors Advocate to an upcoming meeting.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle - Director McGuire

- Continue to address the "do not consume" water advisory.
- 2026 Budget process nearing completion
- Renovations moving forward on the condemned building utilizing RBA funds
- Seniors Building
 - 7 of the 12 units are occupied
 - Providing notification to other communities of available space.

Village of Burns Lake - Director Wiebe

- The Dollar store building has been removed, and the building will be rebuilt

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Director Greenaway

- Attended the Northern Health Spring Meeting
- Continue to work on hiring a Recruitment Coordinator in Fort St. James.

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

- Forest Service Roads
 - Lack of maintenance with the curtailment of logging operations
 - Some FSRs being maintained by area residents
 - Want to find a solution to ensure the FSRs are maintained for backcountry recreation use and other business uses.

Town of Smithers – Director Atrill

- BC Housing hosting an Open House for the proposed interim shelter funded through the Heart and Hearth program to move toward permanent housing
- Minerals North takes place next week with an expected 450 registrants and a full trade show
- Encouraged attendance at the NCLGA Conference and AGM - May 20-22 in Prince George.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Director Moon

- Attended the Nechako Watershed Roundtable Spring Meeting
 - Presentation on the Cotton Island Side Channel Restoration Project in Prince George was very interesting
 - Over 3,000 volunteer hours and 200,000 in kind contribution
- Due to lack of moisture roadways are dusty
- Cattle prices are up.

Lunch break at 12:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:45 pm

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) – Director Stoltenberg

- Attended Woodmere Emergency Services Society Annual General Meeting
- Bulkley River continues to rise due to the spring freshet.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

- Extended thoughts and prayers for those impacted by the house fire at Wet'suwet'en First Nations community. The fire was actioned by the Burns Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Attended the Joe Tschanz film Fire in our Hearts at the Beacon Theatre and encouraged the Board to watch the film if they have an opportunity.

District of Vanderhoof – Director Moutray

- Attended the Municipal Finance Authority AGM and Conference April 22 - 23, 2026 in Victoria
 - Mayor Tom Dyas, Kelowna was elected Chair and Al Richmond, Director, Cariboo Regional District was elected as Vice-Chair at the 2026
 - Stellako River flows are high.

District of Fort St. James – Director Elphee

- Dadzi Wellness Centre is now open
- Work BC Job Fair held in the community was well attended.

Village of Fraser Lake - Director Storey

- Thanked the Village of Fraser Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Stellat'en First Nation Fire Department for their hard work in assisting to extinguish a fire on a property in rural Fraser Lake over the past weekend
- Toured Nadleh Whut'en's new fire truck
- Stella'ten First Nation and Nadleh Whut'en hosted the Brain INtransformation

- UBCM Update
 - Advocacy Days went well with a meeting with Premier Eby and several Minister Meetings. Key topics discussed:
 - *Heritage Conservation Act*
 - Fraser Lake Trailer Park issues
 - Regional Hospital District taxation
 - Mental Health and the use of Foundries to find solutions
 - Healthcare Town Hall proposed for May
 - Three Priorities advanced during the Advocacy Days:
 - Local Government Engagement
 - Emergency Management Support
 - Sustainable Infrastructure Funding.

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)-Director Lambert

- As representative of the BC Cattlemen's Association Director Lambert is participating on the BC Forest Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) with stakeholders, First Nations communities and local government representatives
 - Minister Parmar, Ministry of Forests has requested ideas regarding fire resiliency
 - ~10-12 representatives will be visiting the region June 9-10th.

Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) – Chair Parker

- Along with CAO Helgesen met with the Chairs and CAOs of the Cariboo Regional District and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
 - Will meet at the NCLGA Conference and AGM May 20-22 in Prince George to discuss UBCM advocacy
 - Met with Blackwater Mine and discussed sharing utility corridors with the Ni Ti Mountain Wind Project
- Attended the Regional District Chairs and CAOs Forum
 - Met with Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities
 - Received an update from Minister Osborne, Ministry of Health
 - Referenced the Village of Burns Lake and Electoral Areas B and E initiative to attract and retain health care and medical staff professionals
- Recent fire event in Fraser Lakee
 - Thanked everyone involved in the quick response to the fire
- *Participation on the Emergency and Disaster Management Act* Local Government Advisory Committee to inform development of regulations is moving toward the end with the idea that the Province will release the regulations in early 2027.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2026-BM-391

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Federal Government Capital Cost Allowance Program

Director Moon spoke of the Federal Government's Capital Cost Allowance incentives during COVID 19 to assist small business manufacture's and farmers. She noted that the Federal Government has recently released similar incentives that only apply to manufacturing greenhouse growers. Director Moon indicated the importance of the program applying to all agriculture operations and small farmers to support food sovereignty.

2026-BM-393

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Newell

That staff investigate the Federal Government 2026 Capital Cost Allowance Updates & Rates program in relation to manufacturing of greenhouses and bring forward a report to the Board for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meals on Wheels Food Delivery on the Southside of Francois Lake

Director Lambert mentioned that the Southside BC Ambulance Community Paramedic and Ambulance Attendants had been assisting The Link in Burns Lake to deliver the Meals on Wheels program on the Southside of Francois Lake. He noted that BC Ambulance under its mandate are no longer able to continue to provide assistance. Director Lambert spoke of the benefits to having BC Ambulance Attendants and the Community Paramedics deliver the meals to help individuals remain in the home. He also noted the wait list for seniors housing in the community. Discussion took place regarding the volunteer program to deliver Meals on Wheels, and Director Lambert connecting with The Link to further discuss the options to deliver the program.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2026-BM-394

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

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

- Labour Relations
- Building Infractions
- Member Municipality Proposal
- First Nations Relations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-BM-395

Moved by Director Wiebe

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services