



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 28, 2026

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker
Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen - left at 12:49 p.m., returned at 12:54 p.m.
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
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
Jason Berlin, Senior Building Inspector - left at 11:09 a.m.
Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - arrived at 11:29 a.m., left at 12:49 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - arrived at 12:45 p.m., left at 12:47 p.m., returned at 12:56 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services
Trevor Moffat, Planning Summer Student - left at 12:04 p.m.
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services - arrived at 11:29 a.m., left at 12:49 p.m.

Others: Leigh Purnell, Health & Safety Coordinator, West Fraser Concrete & Terrace Redi Mix - left at 11:38 a.m.
Merewyn Comeau, Media, Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

May 28, 2026

2026-BM-399

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Brien

That the Agenda and Supplementary Agenda for May 28, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - April 30, 2026

2026-BM-400

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board Meeting Minutes of April 30, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2026

2026-BM-401

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2026

2026-BM-402

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the following Committee Meeting Minutes be received:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
 - May 14, 2026
- Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes
 - May 14, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Building Inspection

Section 57- Call for comments from the gallery

Jason Berlin, Senior Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title, 1810 - 1820 Peterson Rd, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2026-BM-403

No Comments received from the gallery.

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

1. 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 District Lot 4175, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plans 3332 5153 8142 8303 10041 and 4623 (1820 Peterson Road).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Application

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - ALR Removal of Soil (Extraction) Application No. 1284 – Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2026-BM-404

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

1. That Agricultural Land Reserve Removal of Soil (Extraction) Application No. 1284 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.
2. That the ALC be requested to ensure that an adequate weed management plan, and adequate noise and dust mitigation measures, are in place to protect agricultural values in the area.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Third Reading & Adoption

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw - All Electoral Areas except Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

2026-BM-406

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

1. That the Board amend Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw No. 2103, 2026 as discussed in the May 28, 2026 staff report; and,
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw No. 2103, 2026 be given third reading and adoption as amended this 28th day of May, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ G-01-25 – Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075,2025 – Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2026-BM-407

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson
That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075, 2025 be adopted this 28th day of May, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Temporary Use Permit

Cameron Kral, Planner - Temporary Use Permit Application A-01-26 – Electoral A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2026-BM-408

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

1. That the Public Comments on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
2. That the Board approve the issuance of the Temporary Use Permit A-01-26 as amended removing any reference to the portable crushing unit and allowing the use of a portable screening unit in association with a sand and gravel pit at 3901 Gilbert Road.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services noted the correspondence from the applicant on the Supplementary Agenda. He mentioned that the applicant indicated they wished to amend the Temporary Use Permit to remove any reference to the portable crushing unit and request the allowance for the use of a portable screening unit. Mr. Llewellyn commented that the applicant held a community meeting with area residents and indicated their intent to request the removal of the crushing unit from the TUP.

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner- Temporary Use Permit Application B-02-24 – Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2026-BM-409

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board deny Temporary Use Permit Application B-02-24.

Opposed: Director Lambert

CARRIED

Development Variance Permit

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Development Variance Permit Application No. B-01-26

2026-BM-410

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Elphee

1. That the Board receive the Public Comment on the Supplementary Agenda.
2. That the Board approve Development Variance Permit B-01-26 for the property located at 7752 Brewer Avenue to vary Section 9.0.5.1.a) of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 by reducing the minimum setback of a structure from a Rear Parcel Line from 7.5 metres to 2.5 metres for the proposed shop and garage.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Riis-Christianson encouraged staff to follow up with the applicant during the Building Permit process to ensure the property and fence lines are confirmed prior to building the proposed shop and garage.

Other

Cameron Kral, Planner - Parcel Frontage A-01-26 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2026-BM-411

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board exempt the proposed Remainder and proposed Lot A from the minimum 10 per cent perimeter parcel frontage requirement pursuant to Section 512 of the *Local Government Act* to permit a parcel frontage of no less than 3.5 per cent for the Remainder and 6.5 percent for Lot A, subject to the subdivision layout being in general compliance with the proposed plan in this report as Schedule A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Francois Lake East Road and Francois Lake Road Name Change

2026-BM-412

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Lambert

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) requesting that the Ministry consider the letter from the BC Emergency Health Services and the need for a road name change in the interest of public safety.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) - May 11, 2026

2026-BM-413

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) for May 11, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) - May 7, 2026

2026-BM-414

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) for May 11, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION BYLAWS

Bylaw for Adoption

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

2026-BM-415

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That Telkwa Rural Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 2111, 2026 be adopted this 28th day of May, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - May 14, 2026

2026-BM-416

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve recommendations 1 through 4 as written.

Committee of the Whole Meeting – May 14, 2026

Recommendation 1:

Re: Keeping It Rural Conference – June 10-12, 2026 – Kelowna, BC

That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Keeping it Rural Conference from June 10-12, 2026 in Kelowna, B.C.

Recommendation 2:

Re: Union of BC Municipalities Convention – September 14-18, 2026 – Vancouver, B.C.

That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the UBCM Convention from September 14-18, 2026 in Vancouver, B.C.

Recommendation 3:

Re: Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Grant in Aid for Nechako View Senior Citizens Home Society

That the Board approve a Regional Grant in Aid of \$8,650 from the Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) allocation to the Nechako View Senior Citizens Home Society for a duplex renovation project with Charis Supportive Housing Society.

Rural Services Committee Meeting – May 14, 2026

Recommendation 4:

Re: Resource Roads

That the Board direct staff to further the advocacy and investigation into rural resource roads.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Request to Co-sponsor Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) UBCM Resolutions

2026-BM-417

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Brien

That the Board co-sponsor the following RDFFG Resolutions for submission to the 2026 UBCM Convention:

1. Food Security and Food Sovereignty
2. Large-Scale Corporate Consolidation and Foreign Ownership of Farmland.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Union of BC Municipalities – Minister Meeting Requests

2026-BM-418

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board request the Minister meetings outlined in the staff report during the 2026 UBCM Convention.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth
 - Pressures of camps and increased workforce
 - Fort St. James College of New Caledonia Building (District of Fort St. James)
- Minister of Finance
 - A summary of any projects with financial asks
 - Healthcare Infrastructure - Facility Condition Index (FCI) - including current needs
- The Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health
 - FCI to include current needs
 - Retention and recruitment
 - ER Closures
 - Culture within Health Authorities.
 - Health Authority review
- The Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
 - Cumulative impacts of approvals - impacts to provision of health care

- The Honourable Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
 - Foreign workers
- The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
 - Housing projects on hold
 - Legislative reform.

Director Atrill spoke of commonalities between the North West Regional Hospital District and the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District/RDBN.

Director Storey brought forward meeting with the Official Opposition.

Staff will bring forward updated information at the June 11th Board Meeting.

Break for lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -RFP
Award for RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan Update**

2026-BM-419

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' RFP Award for RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Parker encouraged staff to ensure that all key agriculture topics impacting the Regional District are considered in the RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan.

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Community Works Funds for Town of Smithers Smithers Skate Park Phase
4**

2026-BM-420

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

1. That the Board authorize contributing up to \$200,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation

monies to the Town of Smithers for a Recreation Infrastructure project, and

(participants/weighted/majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$200,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Lakes District Art and Culture Fund Application Burns Lake Music Society, Rock the Dock 2026

2026-BM-421

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board approve a Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund grant of \$5,000 to the Burns Lake Music Society for the 2026 Rock the Dock Event.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Regional Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement

2026-BM-422

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board approve the attached agreement and authorize staff to distribute to each municipality for signature.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from In-Camera Meeting

2026-BM-423

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director McGuire

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Union of BC Municipalities - RDBN 2026 NG911 Approval Agreement

2026-BM-424

Moved by Director Brienen

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding the RDBN 2026 NG911 Approval Agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of BC Municipalities Provincial Response to 2025 Resolutions

2026-BM-425

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding Provincial Response to 2025 Resolutions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

*** PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

*** Referral**

- * **Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Atlantica Tchesinkut Lake Wind Investigative Use License Application Notice – Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)****

2026-BM-426

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

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

Opposed: Director Lambert

Director Moon

Director Stoltenberg

CARRIED

* **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

* **Union of B.C. Municipalities - Provincial Efforts to Renew the Heritage Conservation Act**

2026-BM-427

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding Provincial Efforts to Renew the Heritage Conservation Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) - Director Moon

- Cattle prices remain high
- Working on the 100-Year Farm Awards for the Vanderhoof Centennial Celebration.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa) - Director Stoltenberg

- Cycle 16 Trail work is continuing along with the Highway 16 underpass for the trail.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) - Director Riis-Christianson

- Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) decision has been provided regarding the release of more granular data about Internet Service Providers service levels and will be brought forward to the next Rural Services Committee Meeting.

District of Vanderhoof - Director Moutray

- District of Vanderhoof summer projects are underway
- Welcomed those wanting to attend the Vanderhoof Centennial Celebrations July 4-5.

District of Fort St. James - Director Elphee

- 2026 infrastructure projects have started
 - Spirit Square
 - In the 3rd year of 5 years of water system improvements
- Local contractor in Fort St. James has been recently certified to test and dispose of Class II bio-hazard solids - lagoon sludge
 - Any municipality and/or Regional District in need of the service can reach out to the District of Fort St. James Director of Operations.

Village of Fraser Lake - Director Storey

- Attended the 2026 North Central Local Government Association Conference (NCLGA) and AGM May 20-22 in Prince George
- Attended the 2026 Business Forum May 26 in Fraser Lake
 - Thanked RDBN and Village of Fraser Lake staff for a good event
- Northern Health Strategic Planning session - expressed appreciation for those that were able to attend
 - Provided feedback to Northern Health regarding increasing the opportunities for additional planning sessions.

Village of Granisle - Director McGuire

- Village of Granisle Tax Notices have been distributed
- Currently 14 homes for sale in Granisle
- Attended the 2026 NCLGA Conference and AGM
 - Require clarity on the resolution process and resolutions moving forward to the UBCM Conference in September 2026
- New Seniors Housing Complex
 - Ribbon cutting taking place Wednesday, June 3
 - 8 out of the 12 units are occupied
 - Most recent resident is from Smithers
- Remediation to the north end of the mall is moving to the exterior
 - Expressed appreciation for the REDIP Grant and RBA funding for the project
- Met with the Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities while attending NCLGA and discussed Forest Service Road access and egress
 - Drafted a letter to send to the Minister regarding the need for year-round maintenance to the Forest Service Roads to provide egress routes for the community.

Village of Burns Lake - Director Wiebe

- Rock the Dock 2nd Annual Music Festival and Light up the Lake Event taking place August 29, 2026
- Attended the Northern Health Strategic Planning meeting
 - Brought forward the need for planning for future consideration of the mining and industrial activity proposed for the region and potential impacts to health care.

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

- Francois Lake Hall Centennial Celebration takes place Saturday, May 30 with festivities starting at 1:00 p.m.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

- Thanked Director Atrill for her role as President of the NCLGA in 2025/2026 and the AGM and a successful AGM
 - Brought forward the NCLGA and UBCM resolution process
- Ministry of Transportation and Transit will be seal coating Highway 27 and some secondary roads.

Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)

- Importance of moose hunting in Electoral Area G
 - Changing regulations over the past number of years have impacted the ability to hunt
 - Hunting is part of rural culture and provides food for people
 - Would like to have education and create awareness of the important need for moose hunting for residents.

Town of Smithers - Director Atrill

- 2026 NCLGA Conference and AGM
 - Newly elected Board of Directors

- Conference went well
- Resolution process
 - Advocacy
 - Impressed by the co-sponsored/joint resolutions that were brought forward
- Town of Smithers
 - Paving season has started
 - Smithers Regional Airport holding an auction to disperse unused items
 - Council working through the Heart and Hearth process for temporary shelter facility
 - Bulkley Valley Pool has reopened after a recent closure for repairs.

Chair Parker, Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

- Attending a number of meetings and conferences
 - Minerals North
 - NCLGA Conference and AGM
 - Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society Awards Ceremony
 - 2026 Business Forum
 - Well done and expressed appreciation for the hard work by both RDBN and Village of Fraser Lake staff
 - Attending meetings in Vanderhoof and at Saik'uz First Nation for the signing of the protocol agreement on Friday, May 29
 - Attending a Rio Tinto Event at the Wisteria Hall on the Southside of Francois Lake on Monday, June 1.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2026-BM-428

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-BM-429

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services