



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11, 2026

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker
Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen - via Zoom - arrived at 10:34 a.m., left at 11:39 a.m.
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg - via Zoom - left at 11:39 a.m.
Sarra Storey - arrived at 10:53 a.m., left at 11:00 a.m., returned at 11:04 a.m., arrived following lunch at 1:09 p.m.
Henry Wiebe

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer - via Zoom- arrived at 10:51 a.m., left at 11:39 a.m.
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - left at 11:39 a.m.
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services - left at 10:49 a.m., returned at 10:52 a.m., left at 11:39 a.m.

Others: Jennifer Anthony, VP, Environment & Regulatory Affairs, Surge Copper Co.
Merewyn Comeau, LD News/Black Press Media - via Zoom
Treena Greenaway, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)
Leif Nilsson, Chief Executive Officer, Surge Copper

Corp.
Geoff Recknell, RPBio., Bulkley Valley Research Centre
- left at 10:49 a.m.
Mark Wheeler, VP of Projects, Surge Copper Co.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA

June 11, 2026

2026-BM-430

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Agenda for June 11, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - May 28, 2026

2026-BM-431

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

BULKLEY VALLEY RESEARCH CENTRE - Geoff Recknell, RPBio, Consultant Re: Update Bulkley Morice Resiliency Project

Chair Parker welcomed Geoff Recknell, RPBio, Consultant, Bulkley Valley Research Centre.

Mr. Recknell provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Bulkley Morice Resiliency Project

- What: Goals, Outcomes, Timeline
- Project Area
- Why Community - Level Assessment?
- A complete Wildfire Risk Picture
- Proposed 2026 Pilot
- 2026 Work plan & Next Steps.

The following was discussed:

- Areas of interest with high concentrations of homes e.g. Decker Lake
- Interest in selecting Decker Lake as a pilot area
- Funding
 - Program is funded
 - Additional funding may be required for engagement and localized data sourcing if required
- Remote sensing and street view data is used for modeling
 - Extracts structural details - roofing, cladding materials to assess flammability
 - Data-driven modeling to identify vulnerability
- Evaluate RDBN communities for other risk characteristics beyond housing density
- Identifying and prioritizing communities for a pilot project
- Wind direction information a tool to determine community vulnerability
- Using pilot as a model for other communities
- Awareness of raising concerns within communities and mitigating fears
- Assessing internal FireSmart program capacity to support work
 - Workload and capacity for follow-up activities
- Connecting local government staff with Mr. Recknell.
- Staff to bring forward additional information at a future meeting.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Recknell for attending the meeting.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Referrals

Trevor Moffat, Planning Summer Student - Telkwa Wind Investigative Use License - Electoral Areas A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) and G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2026-BM-432

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board direct staff to provide the following comments to the applicant and the British Columbia Energy Regulator (BCER) in response to the notice for the Telkwa Wind Investigative Use License (ERAA #100123081).

"The Regional District has concerns regarding the cumulative effects of wind farms and requests that the Province develop a strategy to manage the number and cumulative effects of wind farms in the region. The RDBN is concerned that the BC Hydro Call for Power process and the BCER approval process for selected projects is not adequate to protect community interests in the RDBN."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Amending Zoning requirements to allow the RDBN avenues for comment and engagement regarding industrial activities such as wind farms
- Ensuring the RDBN and its residents have an opportunity to comment on projects proposed for the region
- BC Hydro's next Call for Power
- Ni Ti Mountain Wind Project studies and feedback
- Indigenous partnerships.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2108, 2026 – Alternative Approval Process (AAP)

2026-BM-433

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board:

1. Approve the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) timeline for Cluculz Lake Rural

Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2108, 2026, as outlined in this report; and

2. Approve the Elector Response Form as amended, including provision for submission by email; and
3. Direct staff to proceed with the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) in accordance with the draft timeline with authority to revise if necessary.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2026-BM-434

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' - Union of BC Municipalities - Minister Meeting Requests memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Statement of Financial Information 2025

2026-BM-435

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board of Directors approve the 2025 Statement of Financial Information; and that the Chair and Chief Financial Officer be authorized to sign the SOFI report approving the statements and schedule of financial information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator and Christopher Walker, Emergency Services Manager - Seasonal Drought Preparedness and Monitoring

2026-BM-436

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's and Emergency Services Manager's Seasonal Drought Preparedness and Monitoring memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Drought levels do not accurately reflect the soil moisture and drought being experienced in the region
- Discrepancies impact the agriculture sectors access to drought assistance
- Correct drought monitoring
- Brought forward the discrepancy with Ministers of Forests and Agriculture and Food as well as Environment Canada
- Consider investigating and adding more monitoring equipment in the region
- Significant damage to fields in agriculture zones in the region due to weather patterns throughout January/February.

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Lakes Resiliency Project Draft Public Engagement

2026-BM-437

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Corporate Services' Lakes Resiliency Project Draft Public Engagement memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from the In-Camera Meeting - April 30, 2026

2026-BM-438

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Corporate Services' Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from the In-Camera Meeting - April 30, 2026 memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness - Local Government Advisory Committee on EDMA Regulations

2026-BM-439

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regarding Local Government Advisory Committee on EDMA Regulation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Invitation re: BC Road Safety Strategy Engagement Session

2026-BM-440

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General regarding an invitation for a BC Road Safety Strategy Engagement Session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comox Valley Regional District - Joint Advocacy Letter re: Emergency Management Funding

2026-BM-441

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Comox Valley Regional District regarding Joint Advocacy Letter regarding Emergency Management Funding.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-BM-442

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board approve being a signatory to the joint advocacy letter regarding emergency management funding; and that the Chair be authorized to sign the letter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

District of Central Saanich - Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs - Request for Additional Funding 2026-BM-443

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the District of Central Saanich regarding Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs Request for Additional Funding.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of B.C. Municipalities - Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) is now the Build Communities Strong Fund - Community Stream

2026-BM-444

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities regarding the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) is now the Build Communities Strong Fund - Community Stream.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of B.C. Municipalities - Meeting Request - BC Hydro

2026-BM-445

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Union of B.C. Municipalities regarding the Meeting Request from BC Hydro.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-BM-446

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board request a meeting with the President of BC Hydro at the 2026 Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SURGE COPPER CORP. - Jennifer Anthony, VP, Environment & Regulatory Affairs - 1:00 p.m. Re: Surge Copper Corp. Pre-Feasibility Study - Berg Copper Project

Chair Parker welcomed Jennifer Anthony, VP, Environment & Regulatory Affairs, Leif Nilsson, Chief Executive Officer and Mark Wheeler, VP of Projects, Surge Copper Co.

A PowerPoint Presentation was provided.

- Berg: Canada's most strategic copper-molybdenum project
- Regional Mining Context
- Regional Economic Driver
- Open Pit Mining
- Mine and Processing Waste
- Continued Data Collection and EA Baseline
- Timeline.

The following was discussed:

- Workforce and employment impacts
 - Sourcing workers locally for construction and operation
 - Retaining economic value in the region by using local hiring
- Pre-planning
 - 3-year construction period with operations beginning in 2030-2031
 - Peak workforce estimated at approximately 1,000 employees and contractors
 - Intention to prioritize local labour and suppliers where possible
- Balancing development with community capacity
- Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) - support for the region and community benefit
- Design considerations for the mine and processing waste dam
 - Natural drainage systems a consideration in design and planning
 - Operational plans to manage rerouting contact water
 - Recreating natural drainage conditions post-disturbance
 - Importance on baseline environmental studies to guide mitigation and restoration
- Power supply and infrastructure
 - Options being considered
 - Additional discussion and investigation to take place
- Commitment to sharing information with communities
- Province currently transitioning its project review/approval process
- Sharing cumulative impact studies.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Anthony and Messers. Nilsson and Wheeler for attending the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

RCMP Staffing Levels

Discussion took place regarding RCMP staffing levels in Houston, Granisle, Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof. Director Brienen spoke of the reduced staffing levels currently in Houston. The Houston RCMP Detachment also provides service levels in Granisle. Concerns were discussed regarding the lack of adequate service levels in RCMP detachments in the region. Director Moutray indicated that the District of Vanderhoof has created an advocacy package that they will share. Director Storey indicated that the RCMP may be utilizing a new program to expediate the recruitment process. Director McGuire spoke of the impacts to RCMP staffing from events in other locations in Canada and the need to reach out to the BC RCMP North District Chief Superintendent.

Break for the Rural Services Committee meeting and lunch at 11:39 a.m.

Reconvened at 1:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

2026-BM-447

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services