

Thursday, June 11, 2026

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**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

Directors Present: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Shirley Moon  
Chris Newell  
Chair Mark Parker  
Stoney Stoltenberg

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

Others: Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Treena Greenaway, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof - arrived at 12:01 p.m., left at 12:14 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

## **AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**June 11, 2026**

**2026-RSC-062**

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Agenda for June 11, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MINUTES**

**Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2026**

**2026-RSC-063**

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes for May 14, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Referrals**

**Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409600 – Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

**2026-RSC-064**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409600.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Cameron Kral, Planner - Crown Land Referral No. 7410408 - Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)**

**2026-RSC-065**

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Parker

That the comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land

Referral No. 7410408.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral No. 7410392 - Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)**

**2026-RSC-066**

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land Referral No. 7410392.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**REPORTS**

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant Funding Review**

**2026-RSC-067**

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Grant Funding Review memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) funding allocation and structure
  - Limited to capital owned by local governments
  - Infrastructure owned by societies being non-eligible
- Societies struggling to maintain current infrastructure e.g. exhibition sites in the region
  - Grant in aid being one of the only options to support infrastructure owned by societies
  - Exploring infrastructure ownership/partnership options
- RBA funding utilized for RDBN projects and infrastructure
- All RBA funding allocations are considered by the Board
- 15% of RBA funds can be allocated to operations and may provide the most flexible option

- Limited local government infrastructure in rural areas but can include parks, recreation, trails, environmental services, etc.
- Allocation of various grant funding options depending on projects and eligibility
- Encourage Directors to reach out to staff with questions.

**2026-RSC-068**

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to research RBA funding options for ownership/partnership possibilities for infrastructure owned by societies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Economic Development Funds

Director Moon inquired about interest in electoral areas sharing economic development funds to support regional economic development initiatives. Discussion took place regarding funding available and criteria.

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - CRTCC  
Decision 2026-8**

**2026-RSC-069**

Moved by Parker

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' CRTCC Decision 2026-8 memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -  
Connectivity Project Announcement May 2026**

**2026-RSC-070**

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Connectivity Project Announcement May 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway requested an update regarding connectivity projects in Fort St. James. Staff will follow up.

Concerns were brought forward regarding the lack of identification by subcontractors visiting rural properties to connect homes to Telus fibre.

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Draft Volunteer Recognition Program Policy**

**2026-RSC-071**

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Draft Volunteer Recognition Program Policy memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Providing verbal recognition to volunteer groups
- Including volunteer groups in the draft Volunteer Recognition Program Policy
- Supporting and recognizing volunteer groups that are struggling
  - Potentially providing grant in aid
- Staff will bring forward an amended draft policy at a future meeting for consideration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Community Hall Insurance

Director Moon brought forward exploring pooled insurance for community halls within the RDBN.

**2026-RSC-072**

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to explore pooled insurance for community halls within the region and bring forward a report at a future Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2026-RSC-073**

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services