

Thursday, August 06, 2026

2 of 5



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

Thursday, August 06, 2026

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

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
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - left at 1:56 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - via Zoom

Others: Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

AGENDA

August 6, 2026

2026-RSC-074

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Agenda for August 6, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - June 11, 2026

2026-RSC-075

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Parker

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

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Village of Telkwa Draft Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 801, 2026

2026-RSC-076

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Parker

That staff be directed to respond to the Village of Telkwa's referral request stating that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no land use concerns regarding the Village's draft Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 801, 2026. Further, that the Village of Telkwa is encouraged to re-explore the RDBN's offer to participate in the RDBN's regional parks and trails service for Electoral Area A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral No. 6409614 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2026-RSC-077

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land Referral No. 6409614.

Director Newell expressed concerns regarding Crown Land Referral No. 6409614. He noted that Nanika Lake and surrounding area is a pristine setting and that development in the area may have significant impacts. Nanika Lake is a part of the Nanika-Kidprice Lakes Basin canoe route and is a tourism draw and popular recreation area. There is no road access to the lake.

Director Newell mentioned the use of helicopters for exploration activities in remote areas and that any previous exploration in the area happened some time ago.

Director Newell requested additional information concerning any applications by Raye Resources Inc. for exploration outside the development of a camp area near Nanika Lake.

Requesting an extension to the timeline for submission for comments was discussed.

Director Newell brought forward the need to ensure the guide outfitter in the area and First Nations communities have been consulted.

He spoke strongly about the need to relocate the camp and review additional applications for exploration if any have been submitted to the Province. Director Newell noted the importance of ensuring a response is provided regarding the Regional District's objections to exploration in the area and requesting additional information for any possible exploration proposals.

Director Newell commented that mining companies are expected to be open to community comments in relation to mining activity.

Director Newell outlined the following requests:

- Send a letter to Raye Resources Inc. outlining the RDBN concerns including that the Regional District is opposed to development in the area and request the company attend a future meeting to provide an overview of proposed exploration
- Send a letter to the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals regarding the Regional District's concerns
- Request that engagement takes place with the guide outfitter in the area and Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

2026-RSC-078

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That Motion 2026-RSC-077 be amended as follows:

1. That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Referral No. 6409614 be sent to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Crown Land Referral No. 6409614 as amended outlining the Regional District's concerns regarding development at Nanika Lake and surrounding area, and,
2. That a letter be sent to Raye Resources Inc. outlining the Regional District's concerns regarding exploration in the Nanika Lake area; and,
3. Further, that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en outlining the Regional District's concerns and,
4. Following a response from the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en that Raye Resources Incorporated be invited to attend a future Committee Meeting to address the Regional District's concerns and to provide an overview of exploration development plans in the area.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

That the question be called on Motion 2026-RSC-077 as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

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

2026-RSC-079

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the draft Volunteer Recognition Program Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Draft Grant Recognition and Signage Procedure

2026-RSC-080

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the draft Grant Recognition and Signage Procedure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Citizens' Services - Telecom Decision CRTC 2026-8

2026-RSC-081

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Citizens' Services regarding Telecom Decision CRTC 2026-8.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Recent outages due to cut lines between Fraser Lake and Burns Lake that impacted CityWest and Telus cellular and internet services from Fraser Lake to Prince Rupert
- CityWest Connected Coast Project
 - Create redundancy
 - Progress of project
 - Susceptible to disturbances due to anchor lines being pulled up
- Requesting an update from CityWest regarding current and proposed projects in the region including the Connected Coast Project
 - Chair Riis-Christianson, Directors Greenaway and Moon and Manager Davis have a teleconference scheduled with CityWest to discuss projects in Electoral Areas C and F
 - Additional meetings can be scheduled with Electoral Area Directors if they wish.

2026-RSC-082

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Committee request an update from CityWest regarding progress of projects in the region, cut lines in the area and the Connected Coastal Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-RSC-083

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the meeting be adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services