

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 14

Thursday, September 26, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Shane Brienen
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert – left at 10:48 a.m., return at 10:55 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Director Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers
Absent

Alternate Director Frank Wray, Town of Smithers – left at 11:04 a.m., returned at 11:07 a.m.

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
-arrived at 11:48 a.m., left at 1:29 p.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:42 a.m., left at 12:57 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 12:11 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – arrived at 10:41 a.m., left at 12:11 p.m.

Others Quinten Beach, Superintendent, Nechako Watershed, Rio Tinto – left at 11:32 a.m.
Andrew Czornohalan, Director, Energy and Watershed Partnerships, Rio Tinto – left at 11:32 a.m.
Allan Kindrat, P.Eng, PMP, WSP – via Zoom – left at 11:01 a.m.
Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Rio Tinto – left at 11:32 a.m.
Curtis Saunders, Regional Manager, Project Delivery, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Northern Region – via Zoom – arrived at 10:32 a.m., left at 11:01 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-14-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of September 26, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-September 12, 2024

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2024-14-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2024 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

WSP – Allan Kindrat, P.Eng. PMP – Re: Conceptual Design Highway 35 Multi-Use Path (MUP)

Chair Parker welcomed Allan Kindrat, P.Eng. PMP, WSP.

Mr. Kindrat provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Highway 35 MUP Conceptual Design Study

Project Scope:

- Data Collection
 - o LIDAR & Photogrammetry
- Stakeholder Engagement
 - o Engagement Strategy & 3 Phases of Engagement
 - Phase 1 – Project introduction, discussion, preliminary input and feedback
 - Phase 2 – Meetings and review after 90% design was completed
 - Phase 3 – Open House & Online Survey
- Conceptual Design – Alignment Selection, Conceptual Drawing Development
 - o Design Criteria
 - o Concept Design
 - Segment 1 – Gerow Island to Frame Road (Road Crossing at Frame Road)
 - Alignment option 1
 - Alignment option 2
 - Segment 2 – Frame Road to Ski Club Road
 - Segment 3 – Ski Club Road to Tchesinkut Road East

DELEGATIONS

WSP – Allan Kindrat, P.Eng. PMP – Re: Conceptual Design Highway 35 Multi-Use Path (Cont'd)

- Conclusion
 - o Property Acquisition
 - o Alignment Option 2 Opinion of Cost Summary
 - o Next Steps
- Final report- Conceptual Design Summary, Class D Estimate, Stakeholder Report.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Number of properties and property acquisition along the conceptual design
 - o Curtis Saunders, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure noted that in most circumstances the minimal amount of property is acquired
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's funding supports a detailed design to provide better cost certainty, impacts to stakeholders and construction plans.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Kindrat for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

RIO TINTO – Andrew Czornohalan, Director – Energy and Watershed Partnerships, Quinten Beach, Superintendent, Nechako Watershed and Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance Re: Update

Chair Parker welcomed Andrew Czornohalan, Director – Energy and Watershed Partnerships, Quinten Beach, Superintendent, Nechako Watershed and Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Rio Tinto.

Mr. Czornohalan provided a PowerPoint presentation.

- Drought and hydrology
 - o Provincial Advisories – Drought – level 5
 - o Weather forecast
 - o Drought response
 - o Flows – Last 30 days
 - o Reservoir Elevation – Last 20 days
 - o Nautley River Flows, Forecast
 - o Observed Inflows and Discharge vs Historical
 - o Observed Spring Freshet Inflow
 - o Reservoir Level Projection
 - o Skins Lake Spillway Release – Forecast
 - o Flow Forecast at Vanderhoof
 - o Summer Temperature Management Program Summary
- Water engagement initiative
- Research projects
- Social Investment 2024
- Dam Safety.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

RIO TINTO – Andrew Czornohalan, Director – Energy and Watershed Partnerships, Quinten Beach, Superintendent, Nechako Watershed and Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance Re: Update (Cont'd)

The following was discussed:

- Consideration of wind generation along the reservoir
 - o Rio Tinto has conducted a desktop study and prior to potentially conducting a larger study will work with First Nations communities in the area
- Cold Water Release Facility
 - o Rio Tinto conducted an Order of Magnitude Study at Kenney Dam
 - o Currently engaging with the federal and provincial governments as well as First Nations to build a pathway to progress and a process to move forward
 - o Savings and possible benefits to the ecosystem of the watershed with a cold-water facility at Kenney Dam
 - o Determining feasibility with First Nations Coalition to determine viability
 - o Releasing large quantities of water without creating electricity because of the need for temperature control under the legislative Summer Temperature Management Program
 - o Dredging Tahtsa Narrows
 - Included in Order of Magnitude study
 - Extensive stakeholder engagement is required prior to moving forward with a feasibility study
- Maintaining water temperatures of the Nechako reservoir in drought conditions when all water bodies are warmer
 - o Summer Temperature Management Program is required as part of Rio Tinto's water licence
 - o Consideration is being given to improvements moving forward.

Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Czornohalan, Beach and Ms. Parhar for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaws for 1st and 2nd Reading

Fort St. James Rural OCP
1st and 2nd Reading Report
Bylaw 2054

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-14-3

1. That the Board further considered the consultation options identified on the consultation checklist for Fort St. James Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054, 2024 and confirm that the consultation undertaken is adequate.

2. That the Board considered Fort St. James Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054, 2024 in conjunction with the RDBN's financial plan and waste management plan.

3. That Fort St. James Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054, 2024 be given first and second reading this 26th day of September, 2024 and proceed to Public Hearing once the OCP Bylaw has been referred to the Agricultural Land Commission.

4. And, that the Public Hearing on Fort St. James Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2054, 2024 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Other

ALC Annual Report
2023-2024

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-14-4

"That the Board receive the Senior Planner's Agricultural Land Commission Annual Report 2023-2024 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUILDING INSPECTION

Section 57 Notice on Title
2900 Kelway Rd. – Electoral
Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

No comments from the gallery.

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-14-5

“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 Lot 12, District Lot 4170, Range 5, Coast District, Plan PRP10529 (2900 Kelway Road).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Section 57 Notice on Title
4990 Jackpine Rd. – Electoral
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

No comments from the gallery.

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-14-6

“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 Lot B, District Lot 408, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP1736 (4990 Jackpine Rd).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding potential options moving forward. At a past UBCM Convention the Board brought forward the suggestion that the BC Safety Authority does not issue an electrical permit without a Building Permit being issued by a local government. Chair Parker mentioned following up regarding the issue.

BUILDING INSPECTION (CONT'D)

Section 57 Notice on Title No comments received from the gallery.
4882 Jackpine Rd. – Electoral
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

2024-14-7

“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 Lot A, District Lot 408, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP1736 (4882 Jackpine Rd).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Highway 35 Multi-use Trail
Conceptual Design Report

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-14-8

“That the Board receive the Planning and Parks Coordinator’s Highway 35 Multi-use Trail Conceptual Design Report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next steps were discussed. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has indicated that it will move forward with funding a detailed design. Staff indicated it is unknown at this time who will be responsible for the maintenance, ownership and operation of the Trail if it is built.

REGIONAL TRANSIT

Transit Service Amendment

Moved by Director Wiebe
Seconded by Director Storey

2024-14-9

“That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2055, 2024 be given 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reading this 26th day of September, 2024.”

Opposed: Director Moutray CARRIED

(All/Participants/2/3 Majority)

The following was discussed:

- Staff will bring forward a comprehensive report regarding funding to a future Board meeting

REGIONAL TRANSIT (CONT'D)

- BC Transit and Hospital District funding in the lower mainland vs. the northern part of the province
- Bylaw process
 - Staff will forward the bylaw to municipalities
 - Staff indicated their ability to attend municipal council meetings if needed
- Funding information to municipalities if electoral areas determine funding support
- Maximum requisition of \$115,000
 - Tax requisition remaining at \$90,000 until an agreement is finalized with the province in Spring of 2025.

Break for lunch at 12:11 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Vanderhoof Transfer Station Moved by Director Dekens
Floor Resurfacing – Contract Seconded by Alternate Director Wray
Award

2024-14-10 "That the Resurfacing Contract for the Vanderhoof Transfer Station Tip Floor be awarded to Vector Restorations Ltd. for \$295,900 plus applicable taxes."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Director Greenaway removed herself from the meeting at 12:57 p.m. due to a conflict of interest regarding Bylaw 2062 Fort St. James Library due to her position on the Fort St. James Library Board of Directors.

Bylaw 2062 Fort St. James Moved by Director Elphee
Library Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-14-11 "That the Electoral Area "C" Public Library Contribution Service Area Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2062, 2024 be given first, second and third reading this 26th day of September, 2024."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway returned at 12:58 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Regional Grant in Aid Moved by Director Stoltenberg
-Increased 2024 Allocation Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-14-12

- 1) "That the Board authorize spending \$150,000 of Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Northern Capital and Planning Grant in the Environmental Services capital budget in 2024.
 - 2) That the Board authorize allocating \$80,000 in Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) and \$35,000 in Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Community Works Funds to Solid Waste Infrastructure projects in the 2024 Environmental Services capital budget.
 - 3) That the Board authorize amending \$265,000 from special projects in the administration budget to Regional Grant in Aid in the 2024 Budget.
- (participants/weighted/majority)
- 4) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$115,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Grant in Aid Moved by Director Stoltenberg
-Driftwood School Restoration Seconded by Alternate Director Wray
Committee

2024-14-13

"That the Board approve allocating \$80,000 in Regional Grant in Aid monies to the Driftwood School Restoration Committee for a foundation and roof repair project."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts Moved by Director Storey
Culture and Sport Seconded by Director Brien

2024-14-14

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport regarding Name Change of Geographical Features in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and Kitimat-Stikine."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Concerns were brought forward regarding Lake Babine Nation not being included in the distribution list outlined in the August 19, 2024 letter from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

Moved by Alternate Director Wray
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-14-15

"That the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport outlining the importance of ensuring that Lake Babine Nation and Nedut'en Hereditary Chiefs have been consulted regarding the proposed name change of the Geographical Features outlined in the Ministry's August 19, 2024 letter."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) – Update

Director Lambert spoke of the young person that went missing in his area and was found. He noted the incredible response from local residents and Search and Rescue as well as those that came from outside the region. On one of the days of the search more than 1,000 people were on site. He expressed gratitude and appreciation and spoke of the importance of Search and Rescue Teams.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update

Director Moon thanked the District of Vanderhoof for the invitation to attend its Community Transition meeting regarding Canfor's announcement it will be closing its Plateau Sawmill. She also thanked Vanderhoof for including Agriculture in its meetings at the 2024 UBCM Convention.

Village of Fraser Lake – Update

Director Storey spoke of the impacts facing the Village of Fraser Lake with the closure of West Fraser Sawmill and the recent announcement by Canfor with the closure of its sawmill in Vanderhoof. She noted the importance of working together collectively moving forward.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Village of Granisle – Update Director McGuire provided the following update:
- The foundation for the new seniors housing project has been poured
 - Received grant funding to upgrade the beach campsite
 - Successful meetings at the 2024 UBCM Convention
 - Thank you to Director Brienen for attending the meeting with the RCMP
 - Granisle will now have RCMP patrol in the community 4-5 nights consecutively.
- District of Vanderhoof -Update Director Moutray mentioned that Vanderhoof has been busy with the recent announcement from Canfor regarding the closure of Plateau Sawmill. He thanked everyone for their support.
- Village of Burns Lake – Update Director Wiebe reported that three main projects are nearing completion: the new Burns Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Government Street improvements and the Richmond Loop intersection.
- Director Wiebe noted that three long-standing volunteers and dedicated community members have recently passed away: Lyle Graham, Gordon McFee and George Hamp.
- Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update Director Greenaway provided a brief update:
- Extreme weather shelter is scheduled to open November 1, 2024
 - Working with Nak'azdli Whut'en and the District of Fort St. James to have warming stations.
- District of Houston – Update Director Brienen spoke of the impacts of mill closures and commented that in 2014 Houston lost its mill which amounted to a loss of ~\$7million in taxation and \$300 million in local wages. He noted the importance of meeting with the newly elected government after the October 19th Provincial Election. Director Moutray mentioned that with the most recent mill closure in Vanderhoof that seven contractors from Houston would also be impacted. Mill closures impact residents across the region.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Chair Parker – Electoral D
(Fraser Lake Rural) – Update

Chair Parker provided an update regarding:

- the impact of mill closures in Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof and neighbouring communities across the region
 - Imperative to meet the newly elected government to advocate for the communities in the region.
- Recognizing September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Recognized the support that the region and those outside the region that came together to help locate the missing child this past weekend.

2024 Union of B.C.
Municipalities Convention
-Vancouver, B.C.
-September 16-20, 2024

Members of the Board provided a brief overview of the Minister and Ministry Staff meetings they attended. The Board thanked staff for their support and UBCM Packages that were provided. Director Storey noted the announcement regarding a new micro-credential program in the province. She also participated in a session regarding the *Pay Transparency Act*. Director Wiebe mentioned that the Village of Burns Lake meeting with the Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills was a good meeting. Director Greenaway attended the Community-to-Community forum and spoke of the great networking that took place with Binche Whuet'en.

Chair Parker spoke of his presentation regarding the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and noted that in the last 10 years the RDBN has lost 1.2 million hectares of forest due to wildfire which is equivalent to two Vancouver Islands. He noted the difference between the losses in the north and losses in areas such as Sooke that had a wildfire in the summer of 2024. Chair Parker spoke of the importance of support in the north.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-14-15

"That the Board receive the various Directors verbal reports."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Search and Rescue Recognition and Support

Director Lambert noted that the RDBN had a meeting with the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to discuss Search and Rescue capabilities at UBCM. He noted the importance to emphasize the need for training and SAR groups to have the capabilities to operate searches such as the one for the young child on the Southside of Francois Lake. Director Lambert spoke of encouraging people to join SAR. Discussion took place regarding the various skill sets required to assist in a search from on the ground searching to planning, mapping and data collection.

Director Lambert expressed gratitude to the many Search and Rescue groups that came to assist in the search efforts over the past weekend and requested that a thank you be provided. Staff will follow-up.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Newell

2024-14-16

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour Relations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-14-17

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:36 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services