

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 2

Thursday, February 13, 2025

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill Shane Brien Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire Shirley Moon – via Zoom Kevin Moutray Chris Newell – left at 11:25 a.m., returned at 11:27 a.m. Stoney Stoltenberg Henry Wiebe
	Directors Absent	Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake
	Alternate Director	Audrey Fennema, Village of Fraser Lake
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator – via Zoom – arrived at 10:41 a.m. Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – left at 11:04 a.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – left at 1:42 p.m., returned at 1:46 p.m. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:04 a.m., returned at 11:23 a.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services
	Others	Sergeant Stuart Bates, Nechako Lakes Zone, Conservation Officer Service – left at 11:04 a.m. Sergeant Matthew Corbett, Atlin-Cassiar-Stikine (Smithers), Conservation Officer Service – left at 11:04 a.m. Clint Fraser, Chief Executive Officer, Northern BC Tourism and Film Office – via Zoom – arrived at 10:41 a.m., left at 11:25 a.m. Taylor Turkington, CPA, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund Chartered Professional Accountants – arrived at 1:39 p.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 McGuire

2025-2-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of February 13, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-January 23, 2025

Moved by Director Brienien
Seconded by Director Elphee

2025-2-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2025 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE – Sergeant Stuart Bates, Nechako Lakes Zone and Sergeant Matthew Corbett, Atlin-Cassiar-Stikine (Smithers) Re: Illegal Dumping

Chair Parker welcomed Sergeant Stuart Bates, Nechako Lakes Zone and Sergeant Matthew Corbett, Atlin-Cassiar-Stikine (Smithers), Conservation Officer Service.

Sgts Bates and Corbett provided an overview of the region in which they provide service and the number of COS members in each region.

The following was discussed:

- Addressing illegal dumping
 - o Challenging to catch and charge people
 - o \$115 fine for littering under the *Environmental Management Act*
 - o Applying for funding for clean up initiatives
 - o Educating the public
- Illegal disposal of fridges and freezers
 - o No fees to dispose of them at RDBN Solid Waste Management sites
- Increase of illegal dumping when waste disposal user pay systems are implemented
- Potential options other local governments in the province have implemented to mitigate illegal dumping on Forest Service Roads (FSRs) and in other areas
- Illegal dumping in the northwest in comparison to other areas of the province
- Evidence required to move forward charges
 - o Prove an offence occurred and the person that committed the offence
 - o Require a witness or photo

DELEGATIONS

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE – Sergeant Stuart Bates, Nechako Lakes Zone and Sergeant Matthew Corbett, Atlin-Cassiar-Stikine (Smithers) Re: Illegal Dumping (Cont'd)

- Removal of illegally discarded derelict vehicles
 - o Jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Officer
- Implementing trail cameras
- Signage in areas where illegal dumping is more prevalent
- Willingness of COS to participate in community committees to discuss the issue of illegal dumping and to work to find solutions
- Feral rabbits
 - o SPCA jurisdiction for the welfare of domestic animals
- COS intervene where there is a crossover of domestic animals and wildlife
 - o E.g. People feeding domestic animals in a way that draws bears, cougars and other wildlife
- Historical capacity and staffing framework within the Conservation Officer Service over the past 20 years
 - o Local governments cost sharing of COS resources.

Chair Parker thanked Sergeants Bates and Corbett for attending the meeting.

NORTHERN BC TOURISM ASSOCIATION (NBCTA) – Clint Fraser, Chief Executive Officer Re: NBCTA Update

Chair Parker welcomed Clint Fraser, Chief Executive Officer, Northern BC Tourism Association.

Mr. Fraser provided the following overview of the Northern BC Tourism Association (NBCTA):

- Tourism Sector is an important component of Northern BC's economy
- RDBN partnership with NBCTA recognizes the importance of economic development diversification
- Visitor expenditures
 - Tourism sector is in the top half of the Province's ranking
 - Break down by market
 - o Visitor markets
 - Domestic visitor market - over \$600 million
 - US visitor market ~ \$500 million dollars
 - International visitor market ~\$100 million dollars on annual basis
 - o Over a billion dollars of yearly expenditures
- Tourism benefits in the region
 - o Job creation
 - o Entrepreneurship incentivise
 - o Improving heritage
 - o Environmental conservation of the region
 - o A proper sustainable tourism sector enhances quality of life
 - Working tirelessly to build a great place to live – ultimately leads to people wanting to come to northern BC

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

NORTHERN BC TOURISM ASSOCIATION (NBCTA) – Clint Fraser, Chief Executive Officer **Re: NBCTA Update**

- Eco Tourism
 - o Canada and northern B.C.
 - o Supporting entities in the Province
- Tourism Today
 - o Four Primary Components
 - Destination Stewardship
 - Destination Development
 - Develop Destination frameworks
 - Indigenous Tourism
 - Regional themes highlighted
 - Northern BC Signage Project
 - o Northern Circle Route
 - Market Awareness
 - Supernatural content development
 - Working with travel media
 - Industry development
 - How to support tourism business experience providers.

Director Atrill recognized the support and acknowledged the work done by RDBN staff to support tourism in the region.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Fraser for attending the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Municipal Referral

Village of Telkwa Subdivision Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Referral (Aldermere Estates) Seconded by Director Elphee

2025-2-3 "That staff inform the Village of Telkwa that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no concerns with the proposed Aldermere Estates Subdivision and recommend that the Village review the document titled "Subdivision Near Agriculture: A Guide for Planners and Approving Officers in BC" as part of their subdivision approval process."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CONT'D)

Mine Referral

Notice of Work No. 1300428 Moved by Director Greenaway
Electoral Area C (Fort St. Seconded by Director Elphee
James Rural)

2025-2-4 "That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the
Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No.
1300428."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Prince Rupert Gas Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Transmission Project Seconded by Director Greenaway
Eastern Route Alternative
Amendment

2025-2-5 "That the Board receive the Planner's Prince Rupert Gas
Transmission Project Eastern Route Alternative Amendment
memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board discussed inviting Prince Rupert Gas Transmission
Ltd. to a future meeting. Staff will follow-up.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

2025 Local Government Moved by Director Atrill
Leadership Academy (LGLA) Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
-Leadership Forum
-March 12-14, 2025
- Richmond, BC

2025-2-6 "That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors
wishing to attend the 2025 Local Government Leadership
Academy (LGLA) Forum March 12-14, 2025 in Richmond, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Keeping it Rural Conference Moved by Director Stoltenberg
-June 10-13, 2025 – Kelowna, Seconded by Director Elphee
BC

2025-2-7 “That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Keeping it Rural Conference from June 10-12, 2025 in Kelowna, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

North Central Local Moved by Director Greenaway
Government Association AGM Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
and Convention – May 12-15,
2025 – Prince Rupert, BC

2025-2-8 “That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the NCLGA AGM and Convention May 12-15, 2025 in Prince Rupert, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NCLGA Resolutions The Board discussed the following:

- Mail in Ballots
 - May be included in the ad-hoc *Local Government Act* working group supported by UBCM and local government area associations
 - Reforming the Local Government Act Virtual Engagement Session is planned for February 28th
 - Staff will provide the registration information to the Board once it is available
- Inland Ferry Service
 - Resolution to deem all Inland Ferries an essential service
 - Staff will bring forward information at the February 27th Board meeting
- Directors to forward additional resolutions to staff.

Grant to Village of Burns Lake Moved by Director Lambert
-Healthcare Recruitment Seconded by Director Wiebe
Coordinator

2025-2-9 “That the Board approve a grant of \$15,000 to the Village of Burns Lake from the Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Economic Development Service.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Grant in Aid – Spirit North

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Moon

2025-2-10

"That the Board approve a grant of \$15,000 to Spirit North, split between Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural), D (Fraser Lake Rural), and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) from Regional Grant in Aid."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Letter of Support for Village of Granisle's Application to SPARC BC

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

2025-2-11

"That the Board approve a Letter of Support to the Village of Granisle on behalf of the Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Local Service Area Contract -Houston-Smithers Rebroadcasting Society

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2025-2-12

"That the Board authorize the Chair and CAO to enter into the Local Service Area Contract with the Houston-Smithers Rebroadcasting Society."

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director McGuire

2025-2-13

"That the Board defer Local Service Area Contract – Houston - Smithers Rebroadcasting Society memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed regarding the Rebroadcasting Societies:

- Funding and liability insurance over the term of the contract
- Changing the contract to a 1, 2, 3, or 4-year term
 - Shortening the term of contract may impact the Society's capital investments
- Questions regarding the use and benefits of a rebroadcasting society
- Rebroadcasting emergency information
- Various levels of use in different electoral areas

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Conducting user surveys
 - Considering a user survey for the Burns Lake Rebroadcasting Society
 - Granisle is intending to conduct a survey to determine which channels are most popular
- Maintaining status quo while questions are answered
- Notice required to Society if Board determines alternate level of support.

Break for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:49 p.m.

Consumer Price Index

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2025-2-14

"That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Consumer Price Index memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Building Inspection

Moved by Director Elphee
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2025-2-15

"That the Building Inspection budget be included in the 2025 Financial Plan and that the deficit in the building inspection service budget for 2024 be covered by operational reserves."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2025 Budget

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2025-2-16

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2070, 2025 be given first reading this 13th day of February, 2025."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- HR considerations in 2025 Budget
- Consumer Price Index
- Economic Development Service
 - General government and rural allocation
 - Agriculture Position

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Environmental Services Budget
 - Community Works Fund Contribution
- Information Technology (IT) and computers
- Director Remuneration
- 9-1-1 Service budget allocations
- 2025 Budget Projected Tax Rates for Regional Services
- Houston Transfer Station – awaiting information from the District of Houston
- Prior year surplus and reserves
- User pay system for waste disposal
- Board meetings – supplies & food allocation
 - Staff will follow-up.

Regional Agriculture Support System Change Project - Final Report Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2025-2-17

“That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s Regional Agriculture Support System Change Project – Final Report memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Next steps through revisiting the RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan in 2026 to consider incorporating recommendations from the Regional Agriculture Support System Change Project – Final Report
- Need for continued conversations concerning challenges facing producers
- RDBN Connecting Consumers and Producers Directory.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

BC Parks – Notification of Administrative Change to Dead Man’s Island Park Moved by Director Wiebe
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-2-18

“That the Board receive the correspondence from BC Parks regarding Notification of Administrative Change to Dead Man’s Island Park.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Forests
- Follow-up RDBN Board Visit

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brien

2025-2-19

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Forests regarding follow-up RDBN Board visit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Post-Secondary
Education and Future Skills
-2024 UBCM Follow-up

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Lambert

2025-2-20

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Post-Education and Future Skills regarding 2024 UBCM Follow-up."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional District of Central
Kootenay - Cooperative
Community Wildfire Response
Program

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2025-2-21

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Regional District of Central Kootenay regarding Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Program."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will bring forward a report to the Board regarding the Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Program.

NEW BUSINESS

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Discussion took place regarding the use of AI and the RDBN's consideration of AI. CAO Helgesen noted that staff have been participating in various sessions regarding AI and moving towards forming an internal committee to review available resources and best practices.

Northern Highways

Director Elphee spoke of the District of Fort St. James bringing forward a resolution to NCLGA regarding the attention northern highways receive in comparison to highways in southern B.C. in regard to passing lanes, etc. Staff will work with the District of Fort St. James in moving forward a resolution to NCLGA.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2025-2-22

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c), 90(1)(e), and 90(2)(b) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour Relations
- Property Easement
- RBA."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2025-2-23

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:09 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services