

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, April 10, 2025**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill – via Zoom Shane Brienens -arrived at 10:53 a.m. Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Sarrah Storey Henry Wiebe
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – arrived via Zoom at 10:55 a.m. Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
	Others	Aman Parhar, Senior Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Rio Tinto – left at 11:14 a.m. Alec Mercier, Engineering Analyst, Water Resources, Rio Tinto – via Zoom – left at 11:14 a.m. Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator – via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Moutray  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2025-2-1 “That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 10, 2025 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole  
Minutes – January 9, 2025

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2025-2-2

“That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2025 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **RIO TINTO**

**Aman Parhar, Senior Advisor, Communities and Social Performance and Alec Mercier, Engineering Analyst, Water Resources re: Business Update**

Ms. Parhar thanked the Board for allowing time to provide a business update. She advised that the presentation would cover hydrology, Communities and Social Performance Report, recruitment, a new public feedback portal, and social investment.

Mr. Mercier provided the following information:

Snowpack & Reservoir Update:

- Manual snow surveys conducted once per month at several locations
- Snowpack currently well below normal
  - Slightly higher than this time last year
  - 68% of long-term average
  - 132 mm below normal
  - Conditions worse south of Nechako watershed
  - Several locations in the region with well below average snowpacks
- Reservoir elevation:
  - Over 2 feet below normal water levels
  - Recent snowmelt may indicate a shift in trends
- Forecast:
  - Spring freshet has not started yet so just a forecast
  - Expecting 77% of long-term average
  - Reservoir typically peaks in July – expected to remain below average.

Ms. Parmar provided an overview of the Communities and Social Performance Report.

- Report is available online
- In 2024 RT contributed \$490 million to the BC Economy through wages, taxes, supply chain expenditures and community investments
- Over 1,000 employees and 20 active apprenticeships
- Recruitment in 2024:
  - BC Works is still hiring
  - 102 positions filled so far in 2024
- New Public Feedback Portal:
  - Allows anonymous comments
  - Messages sent directly to communications team

### **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

- Shift in social investment strategy:
  - Long-term, outcome-based partnerships
  - Education: partnership with SD 91
  - Health & wellbeing: focus on resilient, healthy communities
  - Cultural preservation and environment: multi-year funding (3–4 years)
- Lianne Olson will be leading a focus group regarding social investment efforts
- \$1.75 million partnership with UNBC to fund climate change research – supports long-term watershed stability.

Discussion took place regarding the dredging of Tahtsa Narrows. This project is in the early stages and is subject to feasibility and approvals.

A question was raised regarding future power purchasing sources. Power will continue to be imported from the U.S. The goal is to maintain operations by continuing power imports.

Discussion took place regarding tariffs:

- No current concerns
- BC Hydro considered a good partner
- Tariffs being monitored closely
- Rio Tinto engaged with all levels of government
- Global operations including U.S.

Chair Parked thanked Ms. Parhar and Mr. Mercier for their update.

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Draft Bylaw Enforcement  
Policy

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Moutray

C.W.2025-2-3

“That section 39 be removed from the Bylaw Enforcement Policy and that the policy be reviewed in one year.”

Opposed:      Dir. Dekens      CARRIED  
                 Dir. Greenaway  
                 Dir. Lambert  
                 Dir. Moon  
                 Dir. Newell  
                 Dir. Stoltenberg

(All/Directors/Majority)

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Lakes District Fair Association Moved by Director Storey  
- Letter of Support Request Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2025-2-4 "That the Committee recommend that the Board provide a letter of support to the Lakes District Fair Association to support its funding application to the Destination Events Program."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Historic Farm Credit Canada Moved by Director Lambert  
Farmland Values Report Seconded by Director RC  
2025

C.W.2025-2-5 "That the report from the Regional Agriculture Coordinator, titled Historic FCC Farmland Values Report 2025, be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Non-profit, Agriculture Moved by Director Dekens  
Organization Gathering Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2025-2-6 "That the report from the Regional Agriculture Coordinator, titled Non-profit, Agriculture Organization Gathering, be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

CN-CN Right-of-Way Moved by Director Storey  
Vegetation Management Seconded by Director Moon

C.W.2025-2-7 "That the April 3, 2025 letter from CN regarding CN Right-of-Way Vegetation Management be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

Columbia Shuswap Regional  
District – Changes to the  
Community Works Fund  
Eligibility

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2025-2-8

“That the March 18, 2025 letter from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District regarding changes to the Community Works Fund Eligibility be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Columbia Shuswap Regional  
District – Short Term Rental  
Challenges and Concerns

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Moon

C.W.2025-2-9

“That the March 18, 2025 letter from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District regarding changes to the Community Works Fund Eligibility be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Break for lunch 12:04 pm**

**Reconvene at 12:54 pm**

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2025-2-10

“That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Sections 90(1)(k) and 90(2)(d) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to solid waste.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Wiebe  
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2025-2-11

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate  
Services